

“Violent thunderstorms accompanied with high winds and lightning can occur at any given time. As a StormReady community, it's very important that event planners work very closely with local emergency managers. Using the information we gather from the National Weather Service, we can plan safe events that occur outdoors. “

“When preparing for an outdoor event, it is essential to develop a safety plan. You or an event organizer should first establish a safety officer, or designate someone to oversee the safety of your staff members and patrons, before, during and after the event. Within this plan, you'll want to define ways to monitor the weather; For risk of lightning, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes.”

“We have Thorguard installed here which is an advanced warning for lightning in the area as well as NOAA National Weather Service radio.”

“You will also need to identify procedures to communicate any threats, both to your staff members, and when the time comes, to your patrons. Shelter locations must also be arranged in advance to accommodate everyone in attendance. Your plan must also define criteria and procedures for when to postpone the event and seek shelter. “

“If we are in the process of a game and during the game we receive a warning from the National Weather Service

indicating a severe thunderstorm within the area, our 24 hour manned dispatch center with the university police department relays that information to the stadium officials to allow them to begin an orderly evacuation of the stadium to prevent any harm or anything happening to our spectators or athletes.”

“Finally, you'll want to establish conditions for when it is safe to resume your event or if you need to cancel. You must also remember that having a plan is not enough. The plan must be practiced with drills and exercises.”