HOW OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY KEEPS STUDENTS SAFE ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Oklahoma State University Stillwater is bustling with more than 6,000 students who call it home. Tree lined paths meander throughout the campus connecting an active student body and faculty to beautiful Georgian style architecture buildings. The main campus is 840 acres with more than 200 permanent buildings. Rightfully named the campus of champions, their athletic program is one of the top in the nation boasting 51 national team championships to be exact, and on game day, the pressure is on, not just to win the game but to also mitigate as much weather risk as possible.

COMBAT SEVERE WEATHER

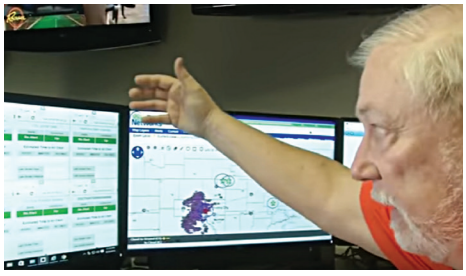
Oklahoma weather is very active all year long with tornadoes, strong winds and thunderstorms. Preparing for and staying on top of what lies ahead keeps the emergency operation center in Stillwater very busy, as campus safety is their number one priority.

A TURNKEY SAFETY SOLUTION FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS

If lightning, hail or tornadoes are imminent, horns installed around the outdoor venue will automatically sound, signaling coaches, athletes and spectators to evacuate to a safe structure. Severe weather detection and alerting is automated — with no human intervention necessary. After the horns sound, the Outdoor Alerting Solution triggers a 30-minute countdown clock that determines when it is safe to resume play. At OSU, the safety system is almost entirely automated. Athletic administrators, safety managers, coaches and staff are no longer required to monitor incoming weather during practice and play. Six football, soccer, baseball and softball coaches, athletic trainers and operations staff are set to receive warnings from the Outdoor Alerting Solution during practices and games.

WHY IT MATTERS

On September 17, 2016, a lightning delay was issued during the fourth quarter of a football game between Oklahoma State and Pittsburgh at Boone Pickens Stadium. Thanks to the technology provided by Earth Networks, OSU was able to take the necessary safety precautions and move people to safety. The alerts were timely and the school received live information about the storm's progress. Earth Networks sent the first alert at 22:41 UTC when an in-cloud lightning strike was recorded 4.6 miles from the Stillwater, Oklahoma field. At 23:29 UTC another alert was sent when Earth Networks recorded a cloud-to-ground strike .75 miles from the stadium. In total, Earth Networks sent 34 alerts to OSU personnel and recorded about 20,000 lightning strikes in the area. The Outdoor Alerting Solution continued to monitor severe weather in Stillwater until it was safe to resume play. The service made emergency management more efficient and OSU was extremely pleased with the experience on game day.



MOST ADVANCED AUTOMATED WARNING AVAILABLE

OVERVIEW

Oklahoma State University Stillwater has used Earth Networks Outdoor Alerting solution for the last three years, every day for outdoor facilities and NCAA events.

CHALLENGES

Keep athletes, students and spectators safe from impending weather on game day and throughout campus.

SOLUTION

Install Outdoor Alerting Solution that can detect Severe weather within close proximity and trigger an alert signaling that it's time to get to safety.

RESULTS

OSU is able to automate necessary safety procedures and get people to safety faster.

It has worked very well for OSU and we are extremely pleased.

Ron Hill, OSU Emergency Management