



## **Deadwood Recreation and Aquatics Center Lightning Storm Closure Policy**

### **Objective:**

The primary objective of this policy is to ensure the safety and well-being of all patrons and staff at the indoor pool located at the Deadwood Recreation and Aquatics Center during lightning storms. To mitigate the risk of injury or harm caused by lightning strikes, the pool will be closed when a lightning strike is detected within a 5-mile radius of the Deadwood Recreation and Aquatics Center.

### **Policy:**

#### **1. Monitoring Lightning Activity:**

- a. The City of Deadwood will implement a lightning detection system or use a reliable weather monitoring service to track lightning activity in the vicinity of the Deadwood Recreation and Aquatics Center.
- b. The lightning detection system or weather monitoring service will be set up to detect lightning strikes within a 5-mile radius of the Deadwood Recreation and Aquatics Center.
- c. Designated staff members will be responsible for monitoring the lightning detection system or weather monitoring service during pool operating hours.

#### **2. Lightning Warning:**

- a. If a lightning strike is detected within a 5-mile radius of the Deadwood Recreation and Aquatics Center, a lightning warning will be issued.
- b. The designated staff members responsible for monitoring the system will immediately inform the pool manager or supervisor about the lightning warning.

#### **3. Pool Closure Procedure:**

- a. Upon receiving the lightning warning, the pool manager/supervisor or his or her designee will take immediate action to ensure the safety of all patrons and staff.
- b. All swimmers will be instructed to exit the high-risk areas (pool, pool deck, sauna, spa, and locker room showers) immediately and proceed to designated safe areas (lobby) within the recreation center.
- c. Lifeguards and staff members will assist in evacuating the areas listed above and guide patrons to safe locations.
- d. All pool activities, including swimming lessons, water aerobics, and other programs, will be suspended until the lightning warning is lifted.
- e. The pool manager/supervisor or his or her designee will communicate the closure to all patrons and staff using appropriate means such as loudspeakers, signage, and verbal announcements.
- f. Patrons and staff will be advised to remain in safe areas until the lightning warning is lifted.



g. After a lightning strike is detected within the 5-mile radius of the Deadwood Recreation and Aquatics Center, a 30-minute timer will be set before patrons will be allowed to reenter the high-risk areas. After the initial 30-minute has expired the lightning will be reevaluated. If there are still lightning strikes within the 5-mile radius, a 10-minute timer will be set. This reevaluation process will continue until the lightning is no longer in the 5-mile radius.

#### **4. Reopening the Pool:**

- a. The pool manager/supervisor or his or her designee will closely monitor the lightning activity after the closure.
- b. Once the lightning detection system or weather monitoring service indicates that the lightning strikes are no longer within a 5-mile radius, the pool manager/supervisor or his or her designee will assess the safety conditions.
- c. The pool will reopen only when it is determined that it is safe to do so, and the lightning warning has been officially lifted.
- d. The pool manager/supervisor or his or her designee will inform all patrons and staff about the reopening of the pool using appropriate communication methods.

#### **5. Review and Training:**

- a. The indoor municipal pool will conduct regular reviews and updates of this policy to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with safety standards.
- b. All pool staff members, including lifeguards and supervisors, will receive appropriate training on lightning safety protocols, emergency evacuation procedures, and implementation of this policy.

This policy is intended to prioritize the safety of all individuals using the indoor municipal pool during lightning storms. By adhering to this policy, we aim to create a secure environment that minimizes the risk of lightning-related incidents.