



## ST STITHIANS COLLEGE

### PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW IN THE EVENT OF LIGHTNING ON CAMPUS

#### **Procedures to follow**

1. The College has installed a lightning predictor that is operational between 06:00 and 20:00 Mondays to Sundays.
2. When the siren signals once (one long signal) it indicates that there is imminent danger from lightning.
3. In the event of the siren signalling once:
  - 3.1. All pedestrians on the campus are to seek shelter. Only school buildings (constructed of brick) are considered to be a suitable shelter. The shelters at the Aquatic Centre have been earthed and are considered safe from a lightning strike; however metal upright poles should not be touched during a storm.
  - 3.2. All sports activities taking place in any external venue (fields, swimming pool, etc) are to be stopped immediately and all players, sports officials and spectators are required to seek appropriate shelter. Failure to comply with this requirement by any employee or registered learner of the College may result in disciplinary action.
  - 3.3. Any competitive game so stopped by the threat of lightning shall be considered a game suspended due to poor weather.
4. Any external agencies using any College facilities will be informed of this policy by the College employee involved in arranging the use of the facilities. Failure to inform such external agency by the employee will be considered in a serious light.
5. The siren will signal three times (three short signals) indicating that all is clear for the time being and that external activities may resume.
6. It is understood that lightning is an Act of God, and while the College has taken these measures to minimize the risk of lightning damage or injury, no guarantees against injury or damage can be given and accordingly the College can carry no liability whatsoever should any person be injured or property be damaged.

#### **Operating the Lightning Predictor**

7. A single Weather Intelligent Systems Portal is installed on campus. It warns of actual lightning activity in the area from data provided by the South African Weather Service. It operates on an automatic system of warning. Messages are created for storm and lightning events that intersect within a specified area of observation and are sent automatically to the lightning prediction unit on campus. Once this message is received, the siren will sound.
8. Manual operation of the alarm:
  - 8.1. The alarm will only be operated manually should the unit not receive the automatically generated warning. The alarm will be manually activated by the Operations Director or any other person designated by the Rector.
  - 8.2. Should the automatic communications fail, the “designated” person will receive an SMS informing them of the failure and that the siren is to be sounded manually. This is done via the “designated” person’s cellular phone by sending a specific message to the unit. The siren will sound, warning of lightning in the area. The all clear can also be

activated manually should the automatic communications system fail and the same procedure to activate will apply.

**Approved by the College Executive: 22 January 2007**  
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