

1. IMPLEMENTATION OF PROTOCOL

At a race meeting:

- it shall be the responsibility of the Steward-In-Charge to monitor the prevailing weather for signs of approaching storms and implement the GRSA Lightning Safety Protocol.
- The Steward in charge may delegate another Steward to perform or assist in this function.

At a trial session:

- it shall be the responsibility of an appointed GRSA official to monitor storm activity and implement the GRSA Lightning Protocol.

2. THE “30/30 RULE”

The “30/30 rule” relates to the time lapse between observing the flash of lightning and hearing the clap of thunder.

The rule is used as a measure of the imminence of a storm and therefore as a factor in considering whether outdoor activities should be suspended.

The rule is based on the time taken for sound to travel. Depending on the prevailing temperature and humidity sound travels at approximately 340 metres per second.

Therefore, in assessing the proximity of a storm, every three (3) seconds of delay between the observation of a lightning flash and the hearing of the associated thunder equates to a distance of approximately one (1) kilometre.

Accordingly, a thirty (30) seconds flash to thunder delay equates to the lightning activity being approximately ten (10) kilometres away.

In summary:

- **30 seconds:** Count the number of seconds between observing lightning and hearing thunder. If this time period is thirty seconds or less, the lightning is sufficiently close to represent a hazard.
- **30 minutes:** After observing the final lightning flash or hearing the final thunder, remain under cover for thirty minutes to ensure the hazard has passed.

It is important to understand that blue sky and the absence of rain are not adequate reasons to ignore the “30/30 rule”. Many victims are struck before the storm actually arrives because they wait too long to seek shelter.

Note: The “30/30 rule” is not an absolute rule. A storm may move very quickly, or not generate any lightning or thunder until it is very close, or topographical or wind conditions may prevent sound from traveling to your position. These conditions are especially common in mountain areas. It is important that staff observe weather conditions and be alert to the possibility of the above occurring.

3. APPLICATION/IMPLEMENTATION

If through the application of the “30/30 rule” or from the observations of the responsible Steward or appointed GRSA official as described in the Protocol, it is considered that lightning activity is occurring within ten (10) kilometres of a race track the following measures shall be taken:

a) Suspension of Activity

If the flash to thunder delay is thirty (30) seconds or less,

- (i) all activity shall be suspended, and
- (ii) an announcement made requesting all persons and greyhounds in attendance to seek shelter indoors.

b) Resumption of Activity

As trailing storm clouds may still carry a lingering charge, activity at the race track shall not resume until a period of thirty (30) minutes has elapsed after the last flash of lightning was observed.