

Pool Safety During Storms

National Weather Service (NWS) states that swimming pools—both outdoor and indoor—must be completely evacuated immediately at the first sound of thunder or sight of lightning. Because pools are connected to extensive underground networks of metal pipes, electrical wiring, and water lines, a strike anywhere on this network can travel directly into the water. [1, 2, 3]

The primary official safety protocols and clearing guidelines mandate a strict timeline and specific shelter requirements: [1, 2]

The 30-30 Rule for Evacuation

- **Clear the Pool:** If the time between seeing a lightning flash and hearing its thunder is 30 seconds or less, the storm is within 6 miles and everyone must evacuate the pool area immediately. [1, 2] *If the storm is within 10 miles we evacuate the pool area.
- **The 30-Minute Wait:** Swimmers must not return to the water until at least 30 minutes have passed since the last heard clap of thunder or seen flash of lightning. Every new rumble of thunder resets this 30-minute clock back to zero. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

If the weather does not cooperate, an indoor simulated class will be held in an available room.

Approved Safe Locations

The NWS emphasizes that there is no safe place outdoors during a lightning storm. Patrons must be directed to: [1]

- **Substantial Enclosed Buildings:** Structures with fully grounded plumbing and electrical wiring.
- **Hard-Topped Metal Vehicles:** Fully enclosed cars, trucks, or vans with the windows rolled completely up. [1, 2, 3]

Unsafe Locations (Where NOT to Wait)

Lifeguards and pool operators are instructed not to let patrons shelter in the following areas, as they offer zero protection from a strike:

- **Open-sided picnic pavilions, tents, or gazebos.**
- **Pool decks, patios, or underneath outdoor fabric awnings.**
- **Showers and Locker Rooms:** Because lightning can travel through the facility's plumbing, indoor showers, sinks, and changing rooms are highly dangerous during a storm. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

The community MUST give Body Wellness® at least 28 hours' notice before cancelling classes on their end. WE DO NOT CANCEL CLASSES WITHOUT NOTICE FROM COMMUNITY!

Questions? Email: Susan@BodyWellness.com

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