

LIGHTNING POLICY

If lightning is detected within 8 miles of the facility, the pool will be closed and remain closed until 30 minutes after the last bolt of lightning is detected. Furthermore, it is also recommended that all wet areas of the locker rooms be evacuated.

The Aquatics Department at the YMCA of Southwestern Indiana sets patron safety as its first priority. As most of us know, lightning is part of a severe weather storm where electrical surges are present, and since water is an excellent conductor of electricity, the structure surrounding a pool, whether outdoor or indoor, may also be conductive. Many victims of lightning are not struck directly but are injured when electric current transverses the ground or a structure. Swimming pools and their attendant structures are connected to vast conductive network consisting of underground water pipes, gas lines, telephone and electric cables. Electrical energy from a lightning strike in one location can be transmitted to any other position on this metallic network. Thus, if lightning strikes the ground near an indoor pool, it may enter the building through various low resistance conductors that come into contact with the building - an indoor pool should never be presumed safe from the effects of lightning.

A lightning detector at the front desk will continuously monitor lightning and its distance from the building. We will only enforce the above policy when this system indicates a threat. Thank you for your cooperation.