

THUNDERSTORM POLICY

The Hampshire Regional YMCA thunderstorm policy is to close the pools in the event of thunder or lightning. It is only safe to reenter the pool area 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder or bolt of lightning.

If swim lessons are interrupted by thunder or lightning, all participants will be removed from the pool area and taken to the kitchen, where they will be supervised by aquatic staff members until a parent or guardian arrives for each child. **Please do not try to enter the pool area to meet your child, as staff will be trying to clear the pool area. Please go to the kitchen and meet your child there.**

The following information is provided by our insurance company to help explain the reasons for this policy:

“Water is obviously 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, etc. 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. It is even possible for adjacent wet ground or nearby tree roots to be sufficient conductors. Just because a pool was electrically grounded when initially built does not mean that changes to plumbing, wiring, or the structure itself have not compromised that protection. Even an indoor pool should never be presumed safe from the effects of lightning.”

-Redwoods Insurance Group, online at www.redwoodsgroup.com