

# 3M Trap and Skeet Club Lightning Procedure

## A. Purpose

To define the criteria for managing trap, skeet and 5-stand clay target activities at the 3M Range when the threat of lightning exists. To establish criteria for the safe resumption of club activities after the danger of lightning has passed.

## B. Background

The trap, skeet and 5-stand clay target seasons are held during the spring and summer months when thunderstorms and lightning are more prevalent and pose a danger to club members personal safety. Lightning is difficult to predict and is unpredictable. If lightning is detected within six (6) miles of the range the club deems that lightning places individuals at risk of injury or death. Members are at an even higher risk due to them handling shotguns during their activities.

3M Trap and Skeet Club directors and the clubhouse manager are instructed to monitor storms and lightning using the *WeatherBug* app, which can be downloaded on their mobile phone. This procedure provides the criteria to detect and monitor lightning and, if necessary, stop all range activities, to prevent lightning-related injuries at the 3M Range.

The SkyScan lightning detection device, purchased by the club, can be used if the WeatherBug app is not available.

## C. Safe Shelter

When the threat of lightning arises people will be instructed to take shelter in a safe shelter. Safe shelters are usually permanent buildings, but they can also be vehicles with permanent roofs (not convertibles or open vehicles like a golf cart or ATV). The designated safe shelters at the 3M Range are the winter clubhouse and attached garage, the main clubhouse, the bird storage pole-barn and personal vehicles.

*While the patio area of the main clubhouse is covered, it is an open structure and does not provide adequate lightning protection; therefore, it is not an acceptable safe location.*

## D. Procedure for Range Operation During Lightning Storms Using the *WeatherBug* app

1. If lightning is detected within 6–20 miles from the range the clubhouse manager will make an announcement to club members that there is a lightning nearby and that range activities may be suspended if the lightning threat increases.
2. While monitoring the lightning threat the clubhouse manager will consult with the trap, skeet and 5-stand directors who are on site for guidance and assistance.

3. If lightning is detected within 6 miles of the range all range activities must be stopped immediately. An announcement will be made that all members stop their range activities at once, exit all clay target fields, and head to the nearest safe shelter (See Section C above).
4. Once range activities have been cancelled, no activities can resume until there has been no lightning detected within 6 miles of the range for 30 consecutive minutes after the last lightning was detected.
5. After the cessation of all activities the clubhouse manager and club directors will continue to monitor lightning. If lightning causes range activities to be cancelled for longer than one-hour the clubhouse manager will consult with the trap, skeet and 5-stand clays directors on site to determine if range activities should be cancelled permanently or to continue waiting for the threat of lightning to subside.
6. If activities are cancelled permanently, an announcement will be made, and members can leave for home when they feel it is safe to go to their cars. Members should use caution when taking their shotgun to their vehicles and while driving home.
7. Independent of formal suspension or outright cancellation of range activities, a liberal policy of shoot-back allowance will be observed.
8. Reminder: Rain, wind, and sleet - absent lightning – in most cases do not warrant cancellation of range activities.

## **E. Roles & Responsibilities**

1. All club members are required to follow the instructions of the clubhouse manager and the 3M Club Trap and Skeet Board of Directors who will act to protect the club members and manage range safety.
2. The clubhouse manager and the club directors on site will monitor weather conditions using the *WeatherBug* app when the threat of severe weather is elevated. The SkyScan lightning detection device is available if the *WeatherBug* app is unavailable.
3. The 3M Club Trap and Skeet Board of Directors are responsible to review and approve this procedure and any revisions to it in the future.
4. 3M Trap and Skeet Board of Directors who are at the range will assist the clubhouse manager to monitor weather conditions and will consult with the clubhouse manager if range activities are suspended for one-hour or longer.
5. Team Captains will communicate the status of weather delays to their teams and communicate how to make-up cancelled clay target rounds.

## **F. References:**

1. SkyScan Model P5 Operations manuals (Attachment 1)
2. Latrice Sales, "Lightning Safety" (<http://www.ncaa.org/health-safety/lightning-safety>) Posted on the NCAA website
3. National Lightning Safety Institute, "Personal Lightning Safety Tips" ([http://lightningsafety.com/nlsi\\_plsi/1st.html/](http://lightningsafety.com/nlsi_plsi/1st.html/)) 3M Trap & Skeet League Lightning Procedure
4. SkyScan website, "Lightning Safety Guidelines" (<http://www.skyscancanada.com/lightning-safety-guidelines/>)

## Appendix 1

### Procedure for Range Operation During Lightning Storms using the SkyScan Lightning Monitor.

1. If the *WeatherBug* app is down, unavailable, or does not provide accurate information the clubhouse manager and club directors will use the SkyScan lightning monitor per the manufacturer's procedure (Attachment 1).
2. When the monitor detects lightning within 8-20 miles of the range the clubhouse manager will make an announcement that there is a nearby lightning threat and range activities may be suspended if the lightning threat increases.
3. While monitoring the lightning threat the clubhouse manager will consult with the trap, skeet and 5-stand clays directors to determine if range activities should be continued.
4. If lightning is detected within 3-8 miles of the range all range activities must be stopped immediately. An announcement is to be made that all members must stop their range activities at once, exit all clay target fields, and head to the nearest safe shelter (See Section C above).
5. Once range activities have been cancelled, no activities can resume until there has been no lightning detected within 3–8 miles of the range for 30 consecutive minutes after the last lightning was detected.
6. After the cessation of all activities the clubhouse manager and club directors will continue to monitor lightning. If lightning causes range activities to be cancelled for longer than one-hour the clubhouse manager will consult with the trap, skeet and 5-stand clays directors on site to determine if range activities should be cancelled or to continue waiting for the threat of lightning to subside.
7. If activities are cancelled permanently, an announcement will be made to send members home when they feel it is safe to go to their cars. Members should use caution when taking their shotgun to their vehicles and while driving home.
8. Independent of formal suspension or outright cancellation of range activities, a liberal policy of shoot-back allowance will be observed.
9. Reminder: Rain, wind, and sleet - absent lightning – in most cases do not warrant cancellation of range activities.

~~Revised: 08/03/2018 – RRL~~

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