Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA
Aquatic Lightning Protection

Taking Steps to Maintain Safety in an Electrical Storm
Lightning can affect an indoor swimming facility. When it strikes outdoors, it can then travel through wires, plumbing, etc., presenting a risk indoors. There is also the possibility of a direct strike to the building.

The Aquatics program staff will receive an alert when lightning strikes within a 6-mile radius of the YMCA. The range of 6 miles is based on studies of the distance between successive cloud-to-ground flashes in the same thunderstorm. Studies show that 80% of the next flashes are within 6 miles, so that staff can take precautions to get children to safety. If the distance is much larger than a 6-mile radius, excessive warning occurs. If the area is much smaller than 6 miles, there is too little time to act.

In the interest of protecting our members and staff, the following precautions will be taken in the event of an electrical storm:

1. The pool & whirlpool will be closed as soon as a signal is given from our lightning detection service.
2. It will remain closed until 30 minutes from the last thunder is heard/lightning is detected.

Making up classes that are cancelled due to an electrical storm
If the Aquatic department closes the pool due to lightning, classes will be cancelled and make ups will be offered. We offer make-up classes on various days/times throughout the session to accommodate participants affected by the cancellation. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the window of the Aquatic Office with the various offerings. Members are asked to come in to review the offerings and choose a day/time that works for them.

The FSPY Facebook (facebook.com/fspymca) page will have updates regarding pool closings and it is always a good idea to call the front desk before coming to the Y for pool activities if there have been thunderstorms in the area.

Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA
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