

# Why does the indoor pool close when there is lightning?

## Some Lightning Facts

- Lightning travels at a rate of 1000 feet in a millionth of a second. *National Lightning Safety Institute*
- If lightning strikes the ground near an indoor pool, it may be conducted into the building and pool area via low resistance conductors. These include buried or pole-mounted telephone and electric wires, buried water or gas lines, metal lights in parking lots, fences contiguous to the building, cable lines, root systems of nearby trees, and wet ground and wet paved parking lots adjacent to buildings. *National Lightning Safety Institute*
- When a body in water is in contact with a current path, it will conduct current. “In Contact” can mean feet on the pool floor, touching sides of the pool, or in contact with ladders, railings, pool lights, etc. In case of a direct strike to the pool, all bodies present will conduct current. Persons not in the water but inside a pool building who are a part of a circuit path also can become victims because wet floors at pool facilities are very good conductors. *National Lightning Safety Institute*
- Always remember that lightning may visit from the back end of passing storms. *National Lightning Safety Institute*

## Our Policy

In accordance with the YMCA of the U.S.A. Aquatic Safety guidelines and by recommendation of the National Weather Service and the National Lightning Safety Institute, the East Lake Family YMCA Aquatic Staff follows the following inclement weather procedure:

- In the event that thunder is heard or lightning is seen, the pool and entire pool area must be closed, cleared, and secured.
- Activity may resume thirty minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder. This means if there is thunder after 27 minutes of suspended activity, the 30-minute clock starts all over again.

**For more information visit one of the following websites:**

**National Weather Service**      [www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)  
**National Lightning Safety Institute**      [www.lightningsafety.com](http://www.lightningsafety.com)