

To all Stirling Lake patrons:

I wanted to take this opportunity to clarify our policies on Inclement Weather—specifically thunderstorms. I think there has been some question on how we manage this at Stirling Lake, so I just want to clarify the issue.

First, let me start by reiterating what I tell our lifeguard staff at the Lake in the event that they hear thunder or see lightning. They are instructed to immediately get everyone out of the water and off of the beach. Many ask why they need to leave the beach. The beach is too close to the water and the large metal flagpole. As soon as the lifeguards have gotten everyone out of the water and off of the beach, they are instructed to get themselves to safety—typically, they will retreat to the guard house.

I understand that some patrons would like to stay at the Stirling Lake Park and wait out the storm so that they can return to their afternoon of swimming and beach activities. However, the best protection from lightning is inside a large enclosed structure. If you can't get to a structure, a vehicle with a solid metal roof and sides should be considered as a second choice. While in the vehicle, you should avoid touching anything metal such as the steering wheel, or the radio. Staying at the park in an unprotected area such as (but not limited to): an area under the trees, under the pavilion, or on the playground, should NOT be considered safe areas to wait out a storm.

The lifeguard staff is instructed not to reopen Stirling Lake for swimming and beach activities until there has been an "all clear period" (no sight of lightning or thunder) for a minimum of 30 minutes.

Thank you for your understanding on this issue. As always, we hope that you have a fun & SAFE season at Stirling Lake.

Lisa Scanlon

Township of Long Hill

Parks & Recreation Director

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