

SOP 1.09 – Lightning Procedures

Section 1 – Patrol Operations

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Effective Date – 10 December 2020

Review Date – 10 December 2022

Electronically Controlled Document

Purpose

To describe the procedure to be followed by applicable agency personnel in the event of an Electrical storm.

Scope

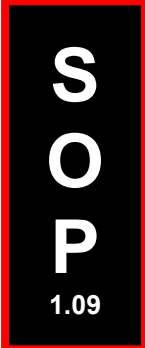
This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) applies to all Life Saving Victoria (LSV) personnel; paid staff, officers and volunteer members of LSV where engaged in official duties.

Policy Statement

LSV requires all Patrolling members to adhere to the established policies, procedures and guidelines to ensure safe and effective practices relating to Image and public relations.

Definitions

Name	Definition
LSV	Life Saving Victoria
30/30 Rule	The “30–30 Rule ” states that when you see lightning, count the time until you hear the associated thunder, and if this time delay is 30 seconds or less, go immediately to a safe location as described below.



Procedure

Protection against lightning strikes

- With an approaching thunderstorm, taking into consideration the 30/30 rule (above), all persons should be advised to leave the water and clear the beach immediately.
- The Patrol Captain should remove the patrol flags and close the beach.
- The patrol should retire to the shelter of the clubrooms or a "hard top" vehicle or building and maintain a surveillance lookout from there.

- Small structures, patrol shelters, fabric tents and isolated small groups of trees should be avoided.
- If in the open and unable to find shelter, crouch down (individually), preferably in a hollow, feet together and remove metal objects from head and body. Do not lie down but try to avoid being the highest object in the vicinity.
- If swimming, surfing, or on a vessel, leave the water immediately and seek shelter.
- In the event of a competition carnival or special event, arrangements will be made by the organisers to delay the event until the danger has passed and to move all people to a safe location.

The 30/30 Rule

- The 30/30 Rule (refer Definition above) is recommended for lightning safety in the Australian Standard on Lightning Protection. The rule is designed to provide guidance on the suspension and resumption of activities in an outdoor environment. It sets out the following principals:

Close Beach:

- Where the flash (Lightning) to bang (Thunder) count is 30 seconds or less, indicating that the lightning is 10km away. (time divided by three refer definition below) This is associated with significant risk that the strike could be at the patrol arena.

Open Beach:

- Where 30 minutes has passed since the last sighting of Lightning, a typical storm travels at about 40 km/h. Waiting 30 minutes allows the thunderstorm to be approximately 20km away.

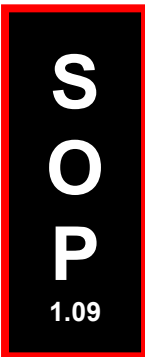
Protection against lightning strikes – indoors

- Avoid the use of landlines, base station radios, fax machines, computers and other electrical equipment. If emergency calls are required, keep them brief.

Safety

First aid

The normal emergency care procedures apply to patients affected by lightning strikes. Ensure that the rescuer is in no danger of being struck by lightning. If the patient is not breathing



Reference

Related Documents	LSV SOP 1.01 – Patrols Roles and Responsibilities
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Review

Date of Issue	10 December 2020
Date Effective	26 December 2020
Date to be Reviewed	1 July 2022
Date to Cease	10 December 2022

Authority

The Life Saving Operations Council Executive has approved this SOP under section 8.3.6(e) of the Life Saving Victoria By-laws, 2019.