

## Racine County Park System Safety Handout

The Racine County Public Works Department urges users of the Racine County Park System to think about safety when planning activities. Please plan ahead carefully and follow common sense safety precautions. Below are some tips you are encouraged to read and use to keep you, your family and friends safe:

### Weather

Pay attention to local weather conditions and forecasts.

Users should be prepared for changing weather conditions, including severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. Facilities in the Racine County Park System are not adequate shelters for severe thunderstorms, lightning or tornadoes. Therefore, in the event of inclement weather, you need to be prepared to seek a safe shelter area.

It is recommended that users of facilities have available to them at the facility a NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio. NOAA Weather Radio is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information direct from a nearby National Weather Service office. NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day. The radio frequency in Racine and Kenosha County is KZZ-76 162.450 MHz or KEC-60 162.400 MHz. The FIPS Code is 055101.

The definition of terms used by the National Weather Service are:

#### **Severe Thunderstorm Watch**

Tells you when and where severe thunderstorms are likely to occur. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

#### **Severe Thunderstorm Warning**

Issued when severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar.

Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property to those in the path of the storm.

#### **Tornado Watch**

Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

#### **Tornado Warning**

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

In the event of lightning, a safe building is one that is fully enclosed with a roof, walls and floor, such as a home, school, office building or a shopping center. Even inside, you should take precautions. Picnic shelters, dugouts, beach shacks/pavilions, golf shelters, camping tents, large outdoor tents, sheds and other partially open or small structures are **NOT** safe.

### Sun Exposure

Any Skin exposed to the sun should be protected by no less than 15 SPF sun block to prevent sunburns and skin damage.

Always drink plenty of water and take frequent breaks when playing in the hot weather.

### Water Safety

Never leave children unattended near or in water.

Swim in designated areas only.

Stop swimming at the first indication of bad weather.

### Insects

When you are at a park or in the outdoors always be alert for insects. Insects such as ticks and mosquitoes are known to carry diseases, and bees and hornets are the causes of stings. To protect yourself and others, follow these tips:

#### Insect Stings

Carry your insect sting kit if you have known allergies to insect stings. Avoid wearing floral clothing and scented lotions and perfumes that may attract insects. If stung: remove the stinger; wash and cover the wound with sterile dressing; apply cold pack; and watch for signals of an allergic reaction.

#### Ticks

If you find a tick, remove it by using a steady and firm hand to pull it. Wash the area and apply an antiseptic or antibiotic ointment.

#### Mosquitoes

Use an insect repellent and follow directions for use. Be sure to read cautionary statements on the label. Follow special precautions when using on children.

### Grills

Use provided grills and leave coals in grill to cool.  
Keep children away from grills and lighter fluid.

### Food

There is nothing more American than the picnic. One sure thing at every picnic is lots of good food. A very important part of the picnic is to have safe and healthy food, not food that can cause food-borne illness. Wash hands before handling food. Not all picnic sites have running potable water available. Pack moist towelettes if hand washing facilities are not available. Always prepare and store food properly.  
Keep hot food hot and cold food cold.

### Boating Safety

Be weather wise. Sudden wind shifts, lightning flashes, and choppy water all can mean a storm is brewing. Use a weather radio to monitor conditions.  
Check your boat, equipment, engine and fuel supply before leaving.

### First Aid Kit

Bring along a first aid kit and hand sanitizer.

THIS SAFETY HANDOUT IS DESIGNED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PERSONS RESERVING PARK FACILITIES AT THE OFFICE OF THE RACINE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS. IT IS INTENDED ONLY TO PROVIDE GENERAL INFORMATION ON OUTDOOR SAFETY, AND IS NOT INTENDED TO INCLUDE ALL THE RISKS AND HAZARDS INHERENT IN OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES. ANY RELIANCE UPON THIS INFORMATION SHALL NOT BE UNDERSTOOD TO IMPOSE LIABILITY OF ANY KIND UPON THE COUNTY FOR ANY INJURY OR DAMAGE SUSTAINED WHILE USING THE PARKS.