**LIGHTNING/SEVERE WEATHER PROTOCOL:**

In case of severe weather, such as a severe thunderstorm or tornado warning, staff/member safety is a priority.  The purpose of the A Plus Severe Weather Plan is to provide a course of action to be used during a severe weather event to minimize the potential for injury that can result from severe weather.

**Lightning/Severe Weather Protocol:**

1. Chain of Command:  Program Director, Program Coordinator, Caption Heads, Instructional Staff,
2. Program Director and Program Coordinator and Caption Heads must be aware of the weather reports each day before a scheduled rehearsal or event
3. Program Director and Program Coordinator will monitor weather conditions via Internet weather services, monitoring lightning detectors, and responsible for examining the horizon in order to utilize the "Flash-Bang method":
	* "Flash to Bang" method is used to determine the distance the lightning is.  count the seconds between seeing the lightning (flash) and hearing the clap of thunder (bang).  If the "Flash to Bang" count is less than 30 seconds, all outdoor activity should cease.  All persons must immediately leave any outdoor areas and seek safe shelter (enter the facility at appropriate entrance).
4. If the Program Director and Program Coordinator are not there it is the responsibility of the caption heads and their staff to monitor the "flash to bang" method.
5. Caption Heads are responsible to keep members together through the duration of the storm or until a decision is made to resume outdoor activities
6. Criteria for safe return to practice/event:
	* Members and staff SHOULD NOT return to the field until at least 15 minutes has passed since the "flash bang" count is greater than 30 seconds, the last sound of thunder, and the lightning detector indicates the lightning is greater than 24 miles away.
	* Each time the "flash to bang" count is less than 30 second, lightning is observed and/or thunder hear, and/or lightning detector indicates that the lightning is less than 24 miles away, the 15 minute return to activity will be reset.
	* When the storm has ceased, wait at least 15 minutes before allowing participants to return to practice/event