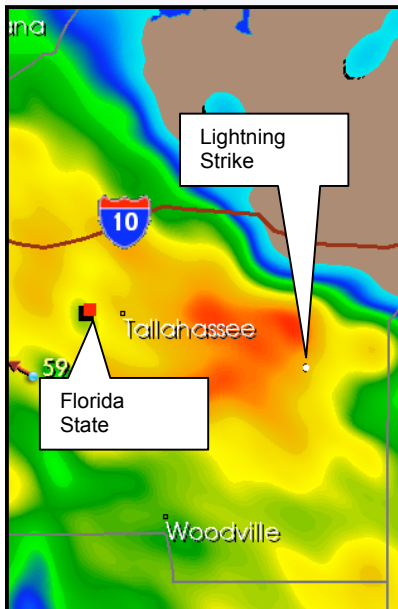




**True Stories. Real Results.**

## Florida State University Forewarned of Lightning WeatherData® Meteorologists Discern Developing Lightning Threat While Electronic Devices Fail



Radar image of the thunderstorms and lightning: The bolt of lightning is within 10 miles of FSU, which is within the 15 mile safety zone. Florida State is the red dot, and the cloud-to-ground lightning strike is the small white dot.

### The Story

On March 15, 2005 thunderstorms brought cloud-to-ground lightning within 10 miles of Florida State University, close enough to be a threat to athletes outside and within Florida State's 15 mile safety radius. Florida State University, a WeatherData SkyGuard® client, was able to prepare for the potentially dangerous lightning using their **proactive** customized WeatherData lightning warning. WeatherData provided 20 minutes of lead-time from the time we issued our warning until lightning struck. Meanwhile, static electricity detection devices failed to predict the threat.

- **6:25 pm EST:** WeatherData issues a lightning warning for Florida State, valid 6:30 to 7:15 pm.
- While on the phone with Florida State officials, WeatherData learns that **static electricity detection devices** used by trainers were **not** sensing a risk of lightning.
- **6:45 pm:** The National Lightning Detection Network (NLDN) detects cloud-to-ground lightning within 10 miles of Florida State. The human meteorologists at WeatherData added safety over the electronic devices commonly used by trainers.

### The Results

Florida State University received an **early** and **accurate** lightning warning from WeatherData, enabling orderly preparation for the threat of cloud-to-ground lightning. WeatherData provided approximately **20 minutes** of lead-time from when we issued our warning until the time cloud-to-ground lightning struck. Using **fundamental meteorology**, WeatherData meteorologists were able to keep athletes safe, while instruments marketed to predict lightning failed. Such instruments often fail where WeatherData succeeds, because it takes a **human meteorologist** to forecast **lightning** and static electricity **before it develops**. WeatherData forecasts increase safety by adding precious minutes of lead-time.

For more information please call 316-265-9127 or visit [www.weatherdata.com](http://www.weatherdata.com)

"As a part of the medical staff at Florida State University, I am thoroughly pleased with WeatherData's SkyGuard Lightning Notification Services. Our goal when searching for the best method of lightning detection for FSU was to find a system that not only would keep our athletes safe but also prevent false suspensions of our athletic events. SkyGuard has exceeded those expectations. Not only have they been very accurate, the staff has been wonderful to work with. The meteorologists have been extremely accessible, patient, and overly willing to help us out. I've never sensed a "burdened" attitude from any of their staff. Entering in Tallahassee's time for exceptionally frequent and unpredictable lightning activity, I look forward to having the addition of their expertise."  
**Rhonda Kelly, MS, ATC/L**  
Assistant Athletic Trainer  
Florida State University

**Put WeatherData to work for you!**