

Can You Sue If You Are Struck By Lightning?

On rainy days, the chances of suffering some sort of [injury accident](#) increase. You could become the victim of a motor vehicle accident caused in part by slippery road conditions. If you are riding a bicycle, you could also get hurt because of the wet environment. You could even slip and fall while walking on a wet surface and injure yourself.

But you don't expect to be struck by lightning.

Unfortunately, [that's exactly what happened](#) this past weekend in Reno. On Saturday afternoon, a boys' soccer game was taking place between North Valley and McQueen high schools. At the end of the match, lightning struck between the bleacher seats at the field, causing confusion and fright among the spectators, coaches, and players. A total of six people were reportedly injured, two of whom requested transport to a hospital. The two men who were hospitalized were listed in stable condition.

This begs the question: is there anyone who should be held accountable for these injuries?

Some would argue that the lightning strike was an act of God or Mother Nature, and that since the exact strike location was unpredictable and lightning strikes are relatively rare, no one should be held responsible. Others might point out that schools generally have protocols in place to prevent injuries from lightning strikes, including suspending or cancelling sporting events and encouraging participants and spectators to seek shelter if a lightning strike is thought to be a threat. In fact, a teacher from one of the high schools who was playing [told the newspaper](#) that there were lightning sightings in the distance earlier in the evening.

There's no clear answer as to whether any party should be held responsible for injuries to spectators caused by lightning. In theory, those who were injured could file [personal injury lawsuits](#) against the host school or its administrators for failing to suspend the game and order everyone to seek shelter. In practice, it is likely that the school district or another organization would offer to pay for medical costs of those who were hurt and settle out of court. We'll let you know if anything develops from this incident.