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City Partners With Taylor ISD for Purchase of Thor Guard Lightning Detection Equipment

TAYLOR, Texas –The City of Taylor partnered with the Taylor Independent School District to purchase and install a lightning prediction and warning system at six locations where outdoor school and community activities frequently take place.

The lightning prediction system, manufactured by Thor Guard Inc., is designed to issue warnings of potential lightning using a series of strategically located horns and strobes at the designated locations of installation. The system can predict a lightning strike and issue a warning within a defined geographical region approximately eight to 20 minutes before a lightning strike occurs by using highly sophisticated sensors and computers to measure and analyze the electrostatic field in the atmosphere.

Unlike lightning detection systems that require the occurrence of an actual lightning strike, the Thor Guard system is able to predict so called “bolts out of the blue,” which are strikes that seem to come from nowhere and cause a high percentage of lightning fatalities.

When the system reaches a preset level of “RED ALERT,” the horn is automatically activated with a 15 second blast so that areas of concern may be safely cleared. As conditions improve and it is safe to resume outdoor activity, the horn system is once again activated to signal three, five-second horn blasts to indicate the situation is all clear.

“The safety and security of our children and residents is paramount in this community,” said Isaac Turner, City Manager. “This is a smart investment for both the City and Taylor ISD as this new system will not only help to ensure that our outdoor recreation locations and schools are safer but also provides a peace of mind for parents, guardians and local citizens who take part in any outdoor activities in our town.”

The lightning detection systems have been installed in six locations currently which include: Taylor High School, Murphy Park, Naomi Pasemann Elementary School, Taylor Middle School, T. H. Johnson Elementary and the Taylor Regional Park and Sports Complex Fields.

Two additional systems are being considered at Robinson Park and the Doak Street ball fields in the future.

“The City strives to keep best practices in mind and is always looking for ways to be forward thinking in our approach to how we conduct business and serve the citizens of Taylor,” said

Mike DeVito, Parks and Recreation Superintendent. “This type of equipment sets our facilities apart from others in the area and also offers a level of protection that is proactive instead of reactive and that will greatly benefit all who use our recreational locations.”

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