



THE BREAKERS PALM BEACH: KEEPING FLORIDA'S OLDEST GOLF COURSE SAFE WITH NEW WEATHER TECHNOLOGY

The Ocean Course at The Breakers is the oldest existing 18-hole golf course in Florida. The course sits on The Breakers Palm Beach resort. The 141-acre resort also offers guests other outdoor recreation areas such as a beach on the Atlantic Ocean and 10 well-maintained tennis courts. The southeast coast of Florida offers beautiful golf courses, beaches, and sun, but is also the setting for frequent summer thunderstorms and violent hurricanes.

CLEARING THE COURSE & THE POOL

For many years, decision-makers at The Breakers Palm Beach struggled with severe weather decisions. While the winter months are typically quiet around the course, very active thunderstorm season starts every year during spring and lasts into the fall. They made the switch from visual forecasting to radar as that technology became available but found that the most avid golfers still would not seek shelter when the radar showed severe weather. Their pool and beach teams were extremely concerned with the threat of severe weather as well.

TAKING THUNDERSTORMS SERIOUSLY

The Breakers Palm Beach installed two Earth Networks Outdoor Alerting Systems on their property in 2014. They placed one horn on the clubhouse and one across the street from

the beach and pool area to improve the safety of the guests and staff. The system sends out an audible "air raid" horn blast when the Earth Networks Total Lightning Network detects lightning within 7 miles of the property. The Breakers Palm Beach also utilizes Earth Networks web-based weather visualization tools, so guests can see the weather systems moving in from the safety of the Pro Shop. This shows golfers and other guests that The Breakers Palm Beach is serious about severe weather and that they are paying attention to real-time data to protect guests.

WHY IT MATTERS

This solution takes second-guessing "off the plate" for The Breakers Ocean Course. Since installing the Outdoor Alerting System, Director of Golf, Tim Collins believes that 80-90% of golfers immediately move off the course when they hear it. The number of "die-hard" golfers who stay on the course too long is shrinking each time the horn goes off. Their severe weather solutions also keep the maintenance team safe. "When they hear that horn, they don't mess around. They come right in," says Tim. The Breakers Ocean Course staff also know that they are covered in case they need support. A team of local Earth Networks field technicians is ready to help with any technical or operational questions or issues.

MOVING GUESTS TO SAFETY WITH THE MOST ADVANCED WEATHER ALERTS

OVERVIEW

The Ocean Course at The Breakers Palm Beach has used Earth Networks Outdoor Alerting Systems and web-based weather visualization solution for over four years on their 18-hole golf course and their beach and pool areas.

CHALLENGES

Located on the southeast coast of Florida, The Breakers deals with frequent and sudden thunderstorms throughout the year and found it difficult to visually tell if and when these storms would pose a threat to golfers, pool-goers, and maintenance team members.

SOLUTION

Decision-makers now rely on two Outdoor Alerting Systems to alert them and golfers when lightning is detected up to 7 miles away from the course. They also rely on weather visualization software in the Pro Shop to show guests the thunderstorms moving in and out of the area.

RESULTS

The Breakers Palm Beach protects golfers, guests, and their maintenance team from severe weather, especially lightning, by monitoring real-time weather conditions and using the horns to bring them out of harm's way before lightning is a danger.

"I've been clearing the golf course for 17 years, and I can't tell you how many times I've had to go out on the golf course and beg people to come off and they still stay out there when severe weather is imminent. Since we've had the horn, I have not had that conversation."

- Tim Collins, Director of Golf