



LIGHTNING AND THUNDERSTORMS



LIGHTNING IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF STORM RELATED DEATHS IN THE U.S. A LIGHTNING STRIKE CAN RESULT IN A CARDIAC ARREST (HEART STOPPING) AT THE TIME OF THE INJURY. ACCORDING TO THE NWS STORM DATA, IN THE LAST 10 YEARS (2007-2016), THE U.S. HAS AVERAGED 30 LIGHTNING FATALITIES.

FACTS

- Warm, humid conditions are favorable for thunderstorm development.
- A severe thunderstorm means that the storm produces hail that is $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in diameter, has wind speeds in excess of 58 miles per hour, or is likely to produce a tornado.
- Within our region, most thunderstorms occur in the afternoon or late evening.
- By counting the seconds between a flash of lightning and the sound of thunder, then dividing by 5, you can estimate your distance from the lightning strike (in miles).

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH VS WARNING



WATCH



TELLS YOU WHEN AND WHERE SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS ARE LIKELY TO OCCUR.

WATCH THE SKY AND STAY TUNED TO NOAA WEATHER RADIO OR LOCAL TELEVISION STATIONS FOR INFORMATION.

WARNING

ISSUED WHEN SEVERE WEATHER HAS BEEN REPORTED BY STORM SPOTTERS OR INDICATED BY RADAR.

WARNINGS INDICATE IMMINENT DANGER TO LIFE AND PROPERTY TO THOSE IN THE PATH OF THE STORM.

WHAT TO DO DURING A THUNDERSTORM

- GET INSIDE OF A BUILDING OR HARD TOP VEHICLE. WHILE YOU CAN STILL BE INJURED IF LIGHTNING STRIKES THE VEHICLE, YOU ARE MUCH SAFER THAN BEING OUTSIDE.
- AVOID SHOWERING OR BATHING DURING THUNDERSTORMS. PLUMBING AND BATHROOM FIXTURES CONDUCT ELECTRICITY. TELEPHONE LINES CONDUCT ELECTRICITY. CELLULAR AND CORDLESS PHONES ARE SAFEST TO USE.
- STAY SAFE BY STEERING CLEAR OF BODIES OF WATER, ISOLATED TREES, METAL OBJECTS, ISOLATED STRUCTURES, AND ELEVATED LAND AREAS. THESE AREAS HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO BE THE MOST SUSCEPTIBLE FOR LIGHTNING STRIKES.
- STAY AWAY FROM WINDOWS AND DOORS, AND STAY OFF PORCHES.
- DO NOT LIE ON CONCRETE FLOORS, AND DO NOT LEAN AGAINST CONCRETE WALLS.



IF CAUGHT OUTSIDE



DURING A



THUNDERSTORM

- IMMEDIATELY GET OFF ELEVATED AREAS SUCH AS HILLS, MOUNTAIN RIDGES OR PEAKS
 - NEVER LIE FLAT ON THE GROUND
 - NEVER SHELTER UNDER AN ISOLATED TREE
 - NEVER USE A CLIFF OR ROCKY OVERHANG FOR SHELTER
 - IMMEDIATELY GET OUT AND AWAY FROM PONDS, LAKES AND OTHER BODIES OF WATER
 - STAY AWAY FROM OBJECTS THAT CONDUCT ELECTRICITY (BARBED WIRE FENCES, POWER LINES, WINDMILLS, ETC.)
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