

WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS!



OUTSIDE IS THE MOST DANGEROUS PLACE TO BE DURING A LIGHTNING STORM.

Because lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles, blue skies are not an indication of safety. If you hear thunder, go inside immediately.

Your cooperative hopes that during storms, you can find shelter indoors. But if that is not possible, reduce the risk of being struck by lightning by following these safety rules:

- Water and electricity do not mix. If you are caught in a storm while at a pond, lake or pool, get out and away from the water as soon as you hear thunder.
- If you are hiking on a hillside and hear thunder, attempt to move to lower ground because lightning bolts will seek out high points on the surface. This also means you do not want to sit under a tree to stay dry. Never seek shelter in a cave or rocky overhang and do not lay flat on the ground.
- Lastly, place any metal or electrical objects away from you. These include cell phones, GPS units, watches, knives, walking poles, etc.

If you are already indoors or have been able to find shelter during a storm, take these precautions to avoid lightning's dangers.

- While it might be tempting to watch the storm from the safety of your home, stay away from windows and doors.
- Do not lie on concrete floors or lean against concrete walls, like those found in a basement or garage. Lightning can travel through the metal wires in concrete walls and flooring.
- Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment.
- Since water and electricity do not mix, avoid plumbing and water. Do not bathe or do laundry.

Following these lightning safety tips can help reduce the risks of danger for you and those around you, but if someone is struck by lightning, he or she may need immediate medical attention. Lightning victims do not carry an electrical charge and are safe to touch. Call 911 immediately and start CPR if needed.

