



*Remember, if you can hear thunder –
you are close enough to be struck
by lightning!*

When Dangerous Weather Approaches

Avoid the Lightning Threat

- **Have a lightning safety plan.** Know where you'll go for safety and how much time it will take to get there. Make sure your plan allows enough time to reach safety.
- **Postpone activities.** Before going outdoors, check the forecast for thunderstorms. Consider postponing activities to avoid being caught in a dangerous situation.
- **Monitor the weather.** Look for signs of a developing thunderstorm such as darkening skies, flashes of lightning, or increasing wind.
- **Get to a safe place.** If you hear thunder, even a distant rumble, immediately move to a safe place. **When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!** Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing provide the best protection. Sheds, picnic shelters, tents or covered porches do not protect you from lightning. If a sturdy building is not nearby, get into a hard-topped metal vehicle and close all the windows. Stay inside until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder.
- **If you hear thunder, don't use a corded phone.** Cordless phones, cell phones and other wireless handheld devices are safe to use.
- **Keep away from electrical equipment, wiring and water pipes.** Sensitive electronics should be unplugged well in advance of thunderstorms. Don't take a bath, shower or use other plumbing during a thunderstorm.

When Caught Outside During Thunder

There is no safe place outside during a thunderstorm. Plan ahead to avoid this dangerous situation! If you're outside and hear thunder, the only way to significantly reduce your risk of becoming a lightning casualty is to get inside a substantial building or hard-topped metal vehicle as fast as you can. Remember, there is no substitute for getting to a safe place.

- **Avoid open areas and stay away from isolated tall trees, towers, or utility poles.** Do not be the tallest object in the area. Lightning tends to strike the tallest objects in the area.
- **Stay away from metal conductors such as wires or fences.** Metal does not attract lightning, but lightning can travel long distances through it.

*For more information on lightning safety, please visit:
www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov*