



# LIGHTNING AND STORM SAFETY



Summer storms can often be a welcome respite from hot, humid days. But storms, and accompanying lightning, can be dangerous if you aren't careful. Lightning strikes approximately 25 million times each year in the United States, tragically killing an average of 51 people and injuring many others.<sup>1</sup> When thunderstorms roar through your area, it is crucial to promptly seek shelter indoors. Many people wait far too long to get to a safe place when thunderstorms approach and end up being victims of lightning-related death and injuries.<sup>1</sup>

*U.S. Navy photo by Mass  
Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Heidi J. Giacalone*

## Prevention Tips<sup>2</sup>

Stay safe this summer and learn how to take precautions when storms and lightning are nearby by following the tips below:

- ▶ If you are outdoors and hear thunder, chances are that lightning isn't far behind. Immediately seek shelter in a home, building, or hardtop car.
- ▶ Avoid being close to doors and windows when a storm strikes. Also stay off porches and get indoors.
- ▶ Never use trees as a source of shelter! Trees, especially large ones, can attract lightning bolts.
- ▶ If you are canoeing, kayaking, or partaking in any outdoor activity on the water, go to land and seek shelter right away. Open water is a magnet for lightning strikes.
- ▶ When indoors, unplug electrical items such as computers and phone chargers and turn off air conditioners. During thunderstorms, avoid using appliances like dishwashers and laundry machines.
- ▶ If you are with someone that gets struck by lightning, or if something in your home is affected by a lightning strike, immediately call 911!

<sup>1</sup> Lightning Safety. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). National Weather Service. <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>. Accessed March 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Lightning Safety Tips. National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA). <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/lightning/lightning-safety-tips>. Accessed March 2015.

For more information on your local resources, contact:



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