

Seasonal CRD Preparedness Tips

July: Lightning Preparedness

Lightning is a powerful and unpredictable natural phenomenon that can strike with little warning, posing significant risks to life and property. Summer is the most likely time for lightning throughout the year, and understanding and implementing lightning safety measures is crucial to protect yourself and your loved ones. This tip sheet provides essential guidelines to help you stay safe from lightning, whether you're indoors or outdoors.

Tip #1: General Information

- All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous
- Lightning can strike up to 10 miles away from any rainfall
- Many lightning deaths occur before rain starts or after it ends
- Don't be fooled by blue skies; if you hear thunder, lightning is a threat
- Lightning often leaves victims with permanent disabilities
- Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before going outside

Tip #2: Outdoor Lightning Preparedness

- When lightning strikes, go indoors. Staying inside is the safest option
- If caught outdoors, avoid open fields, hilltops, isolated trees, and tall objects. Spread out if in a group
- Stay away from water and metal objects, as they conduct electricity well
- If in a car, keep the windows closed. The outer metal shell provides protection, but do not lean on the car
- If scuba diving, stay in the cabin of a boat or dive deep into the water during the storm
- If caving, go deep inside and avoid metal, water, and touching both the ceiling and floor

Tip #3: Indoor Lightning Preparedness

- Stay off corded phones, computers, and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity
- Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths, and faucets
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches
- Do not lie on concrete floors
- Do not lean against concrete walls

Sources

- <https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning-tips#:~:text=Stay%20off%20corded%20phones%2C%20computers,not%20lean%20against%20concrete%20walls>
- <https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning>
- <https://www.weather.gov/media/safety/Lightning-Brochure18.pdf>
- <https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning-outdoors>
- <https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning-cars>
- <http://lightningsafetycouncil.org/>

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