

LIGHTNING MYTHS AND FACTS

Myth: If trapped outside and lightning is about to strike, I should lie flat on the ground.

Fact: Lying flat increases your chance of being affected by potentially deadly ground current. If you are caught outside in a thunderstorm, you keep moving toward a safe shelter.

Myth: If it's not raining or there aren't clouds overhead, you're safe from lightning.

Fact: Lightning often strikes more than three miles from the center of the thunderstorm, far outside the rain or thunderstorm cloud. "Bolts from the blue" can strike 10-15 miles from the thunderstorm.

Myth: A lightning victim is electrified. If you touch them, you'll be electrocuted.

Fact: The human body does not store electricity. It is perfectly safe to touch a lightning victim to give them first aid. This is the most chilling of lightning Myths. Imagine if someone died because people were afraid to give CPR!

When Thunder Roars Go Indoors!

STOP all activities.

Seek shelter in a substantial building or hard-topped vehicle.

Wait 30 minutes after storm to resume activities.

NOAA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov

LIGHTNING QUICK FACTS

How Far Away Is Lightning From Me?

Use the "Flash to Bang" method:

If thunder is heard:	The lightning is:
05 seconds after a flash ...	1 mile away
10 seconds after a flash ...	2 miles away
15 seconds after a flash ...	3 miles away
20 seconds after a flash ...	4 miles away
25 seconds after a flash ...	5 miles away
30 seconds after a flash ...	6 miles away
35 seconds after a flash ...	7 miles away
40 seconds after a flash ...	8 miles away

Did you know? When you feel the electrical charge-if your hair stands on end or your skin tingles lightning may be about to strike you.

- Lightning often strikes the **same place repeatedly** if it is a tall, isolated object.
- Most lightning victims are in **open areas or near a tree.**
- Lightning strikes the U.S. about 25 million times each year.
- Lightning can heat its path through the air to **five times hotter** than the surface of the sun.

For More Information Visit:
www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov

Live feed of lighting strikes around the world:
www.blitzortung.org