

Safety Tip #8

Lightening Safety

We Rise and Shine

Lightning Safety

Thunder and lightning storms happen all the time. Know what to do to keep you and your family safe when storms strike!

Safety Tips

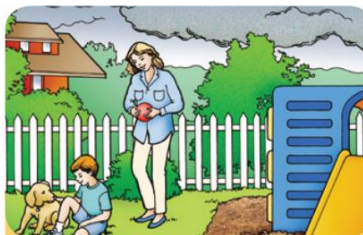
Outdoor Safety

- **If you can hear** thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Look for shelter inside a home, large building, or a hard-topped vehicle right away.
- **Do not go under** trees for shelter. There is no place outside that is safe during a thunderstorm.
- **Wait at least 30 minutes** after hearing the last clap of thunder before leaving your shelter.
- **Stay away** from windows and doors. Stay off porches.
- **There is no safe place outside.** Places with only a roof on sports fields, golf courses, and picnic areas are not safe during a lightning storm. Small sheds should not be used.
- **If a person is struck** by lightning, call **9-1-1**. Get medical help right away.

Indoor Safety

Turn off computers. Stay off corded phones, computers, and other things that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. You **can use** a cell or cordless phone.

Do not wash your hands, bathe, shower, do laundry, or wash dishes.



FAST FACTS

Lightning may strike as far as 10 miles from any rain.

Comments and

Lessons Learned

- During a thunderstorm, lightning can strike a chimney or roof ridge and enter the attic space igniting rafters or joists. Insulation can contain an undetected fire until it grows to a working attic fire undetected to the family members. Smoke detectors in the home will not alarm until the smoke enters the living space. If you suspect a strike, you may or may not see any damage.
- Call 911, the Fire Dept. will use thermal imaging to look for any hidden fires. Families have awoken to a fully involved attic fire causing extensive damage to the home.
- Strikes can also follow electrical conduit in the attic down into the walls below.
- If a tree near the home is hit, lightning can follow nearby underground utilities into the home to the electrical panel or appliances in the basement.



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Comments and lessons learned are from calls-for-service that retired Chief William Selzer attended or has researched.