

Lightning Facts

- * *Temperatures in the path of a lightning bolt can reach as high as 50,000 °F. (Hotter than the sun! ~ 12,000 °F)*
- * *The Power of a lightning's electrical discharge has a peak current of 30,000 A @ 100 million Volts.*
- * *The amount of energy in a single stroke of lightning amounts to 250 kW-hrs. This would be enough energy to lift a 1 ton car 62 miles!*
- * *A flash of lightning is brighter than 10 million 100W light bulbs.*
- * *Lightning moves about 30,000 times faster than a bullet.*
- * *The average lightning stroke is six miles long.*
- * *Once the leading edge of a thunderstorm approaches to within 30 miles, you are at immediate risk due to the possibility of lightning strokes coming from overhanging anvil cloud. Because of this, many lightning deaths and injuries occur with clear skies directly overhead. **"Bolt out of the Blue"***

NOTE: On average, thunder can only be heard over a distance of up to 12 miles, depending on humidity, terrain and other factors.

**** If you hear thunder, you are in range of a lightning strike!!!**

- * *The diameter of a bolt of lightning is about an inch.*

Lightning Safety Tips

- * *Avoid any & all outdoor activities during a lightning storm. When lightning is seen or thunder is heard, quickly move to the nearest shelter or into a hard-topped vehicle.*
- * *Be the lowest point. Lightning usually hits the tallest objects.*
- * *Avoid leaning against vehicles, tall and/or metallic objects.*
- * *Get out of the water.*
- * *Don't use electrical equipment or telephones during storms.*
- * *When you feel an electrical charge -- your hair stands on end, your skin tingles or you get a metallic taste in their mouth -- lightning may be about to strike you! **Drop to the ground or seek shelter immediately.***

What to do if someone is struck by lightning:

- * **Call for help**
- * **Check for burns in two places and around jewelry.**
(Being struck by lightning can cause nervous system damage, broken bones, and loss of hearing or eyesight.)
 - ** People struck by lightning carry **NO** electrical charge that can shock other people! You can examine them without risk.
- * **Give first aid/CPR**
(Most lightning deaths are because people's hearts stop beating)