



PRESS RELEASE

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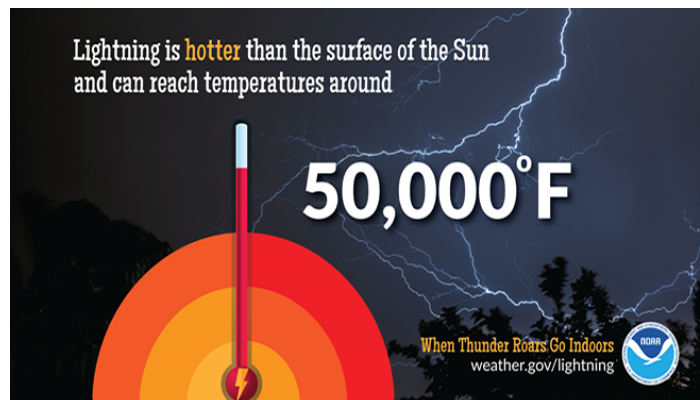
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DON'T WAIT: WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS

Become informed during Severe Weather Awareness Week in Iowa March 25-29

MUSCATINE, Iowa – Lightning strikes the United States about 25 million times a year according to the National Weather Service (NWS). Although most lightning occurs in the summer, people can be struck at any time of the year. Lightning kills about 20 people in the United States each year, and hundreds more are severely injured.



There is no safe place outside when thunderstorms are in the area. If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance of the storm. Just remember ... **When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors**. Too many people wait far too long to get to a safe place when thunderstorms approach. Unfortunately, these delayed actions lead to many of the lightning deaths and injuries in the United States.

Here are some things to know about lightning safety:



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Lightning: What You Need to Know

- NO PLACE outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!!
- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
- When you hear thunder, immediately move to safe shelter: a substantial building with electricity or plumbing or an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle with windows up.
- Stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.

Indoor Lightning Safety

- 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, and do not lean against concrete walls.

Last Resort Outdoor Risk Reduction Tips

If you are caught outside with no safe shelter anywhere nearby the following actions may reduce the risk:

- Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges, or peaks.
- Never lie flat on the ground
- Never shelter under an isolated tree
- Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter
- Immediately get out and away from ponds lakes, and other bodies of water
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.)

Below are tips on how to stay safe indoors and outdoors:

- [Overview of Lightning Safety](#)
- [Lightning Safety Outdoors](#)



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- [Lightning Safety Indoors](#)
- [Lightning Safety on the job](#)
- [Lightning Safety and Recreational Activities](#)

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