

SAFETY Enlightenment

Lightning MYTHS & Shocking FACTS:

MYTH

If it's not raining or cloudy, you're safe from lightning.

FACT

If you can hear thunder, lightning is nearby. Lightning often strikes over **10 miles** from the center of a thunderstorm.

MYTH

In the event of a lightning strike, the rubber in a car's tires protect occupants from being harmed.

FACT

Lightning travels at about 220,000,000 mph and will have exited the body by the time you approach. Check for a pulse and render first aid if possible. **Call 911 immediately.**

MYTH

A lightning strike victim carries a charge and should not be touched.

FACT

If struck, it is the **metal frame** of the car that provides protection. The charge travels through the frame and into the ground without harming occupants if they avoid touching anything that conducts a charge.

PROTECT YOURSELF



Use the **30/30 rule**: When you see lightning, count until you hear thunder. If that time is **30 seconds** or less, the thunderstorm is within six miles of you and is dangerous. Immediately seek shelter indoors or in a hardtop vehicle and remain until you have not heard thunder for **30 minutes**.



Don't touch concrete surfaces, including those in a basement or garage. Lightning can travel through the metal wires in concrete walls and flooring.



Stay off corded phones and plugged in electronics.



Avoid plumbing and water, including bathing or doing laundry.



Never seek shelter under trees, poles or other tall structures as they are more likely to be struck by lightning.

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY



Unplug appliances and other electrical items, such as computers and televisions, to prevent damage from surges caused by lightning strikes.

Surge protection can help prevent damage to your electronics. There are two types of surge protection:



Point-Of-Use Surge Protection:

Protects only the items that are directly plugged into the device from most electrical surges.



"Whole Home" Surge Protection:

Located at your main electrical panel or the base of the electric meter, this device provides protection for your entire electrical system.

However, neither type can safeguard against a direct lightning strike. If you live in an area prone to lightning, consider a lightning protection system.



For additional severe weather resources please visit www.esfi.org.



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