

## THUNDER & LIGHTNING SAFETY

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!*

The best way to protect yourself and others from lightning or any severe storm is to avoid the threat. Know what to do if weather becomes threatening. Cancel or postpone outdoor activities early if thunderstorms are expected. Monitor weather conditions and seek safe shelter before the storm arrives.

## KNOW LIGHTNING SAFETY

Summer is the peak season for one of the most dangerous weather phenomena: lightning. While injuries and deaths caused by lightning strikes have decreased over the years, lightning continues to be one of the top storm-related killers.

*Lightning Safety Week*, promoted by the National Weather Service, is conducted each year during the last full week of June. The purpose of the campaign is to help safeguard people from the hazards of lightning and to reduce deaths and injuries caused by lightning strikes.

To protect yourself and others from the dangers of severe weather, ReadyOhio and the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness suggests:

**Be Informed:** Know what to do before, during and after an emergency.

**Make a Plan:** Develop a disaster plan to respond to all hazards, including severe thunderstorms and lightning. Practice the plan by conducting safety drills.

**Build a Kit:** Organize emergency supply kits for the home and vehicle to be prepared.

## BE PREPARED

Recommended items to include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- Bottled water
- Non-perishable food that requires no cooking
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio or commercial radio
- Whistle to signal for help
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags for sanitation
- First-aid supplies and extra medications
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Ensure that pets have plenty of water, food and supplies



[www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov)



[www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov)



[www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov)



[www.publicsafety.ohio.gov](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov)

# Protection Against **THUNDER & LIGHTNING**



## BE STORM-READY

## OHIO SAFETY TIPS

## BEFORE THUNDER & LIGHTNING

- Be prepared for severe weather **before** a storm watch or warning is issued. Meet with household members to develop a disaster plan to respond to all hazards, including lightning storms. Make a family communications plan.
- Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage during a severe thunderstorm.
- *When thunder roars, go indoors* and stay inside for 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder.
- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or local newscasts for current weather reports.

## DURING THUNDERSTORMS & LIGHTNING

- Seek shelter, preferably in a sturdy building.
- Avoid contact with corded phones, electrical equipment and water/plumbing.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and avoid contact with anything metal.
- Continue listening to weather updates.



## AFTER A STORM OR LIGHTNING STRIKE

- If someone is struck by lightning, call 911 for medical assistance as soon as possible. If breathing has stopped, start mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. If the heart has stopped, start CPR.
- Never drive through a flooded roadway.
- Stay away from downed power lines.

## KNOW THE TERMS

**Lightning:** A visible electrical discharge produced by a thunderstorm. The discharge may occur between clouds, between a cloud and air, or between a cloud and the ground.

**Severe Thunderstorm:** A thunderstorm that produces a tornado and/or damaging winds of 58 mph or higher and/or hail 1 inch in diameter or larger.

**Squall Line:** A line of active thunderstorms, either continuous or with breaks, including contiguous precipitation areas resulting from the existence of thunderstorms.

**Severe Thunderstorm Watch:** Outlines an area where hail of 1 inch in diameter or larger, and/or damaging thunderstorm winds are expected to occur. Tornadoes may be possible. Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or local TV/radio station for weather reports. Storm watches could upgrade to warnings.

**Severe Thunderstorm Warning:** Issued by the National Weather Service when large hail and/or damaging winds are occurring or imminent. Severe thunderstorms can produce tornadoes. Seek substantial shelter immediately.

The National Weather Service issues storm watches or warnings as needed. Most Ohio communities have outdoor warning sirens that sound during storm warnings. Consider a smartphone app for weather alerts.

## KNOW WHAT'S SAFE

**A safe building** for shelter is one fully-enclosed with a roof, walls and floor, and with plumbing and/or wiring. Examples include a home, school, church, hotel, office building or store. Once inside, stay away from water and electronic equipment.

**A safe vehicle** is any fully-enclosed, metal-topped vehicle such as a car, van, bus or truck. If you drive into a thunderstorm, slow down, turn on headlights and wipers and use extra caution.

## KNOW WHAT'S NOT

**Unsafe buildings** include car ports, covered patios, picnic shelters, tents, baseball dugouts and sheds.

**Unsafe vehicles** include golf carts, convertibles and motorcycles.