

# Lightning Safety

Every year people are killed by lightning strikes in Oklahoma. Statistics show that about 50 bolts of lightning strike less than a mile from you each year in Oklahoma about 1 million strikes per year across the state. Your location when these strikes occur could greatly affect your chances of getting struck by lightning.

## **Lightning Safety**

Once you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike! Go inside or get into a hard-topped vehicle.

If you're caught outside:

- Do not lie flat on the ground
- Crouch with your feet together
- Do not seek shelter under trees

When inside:

- Stay away from windows
- Don't use the phone
- Stay away from electric appliances
- Stay away from water
- Unplug appliances to protect them

When Boating:

- A boat is usually the highest object in its area. This situation makes boats especially vulnerable to lightning strikes. Get to shore and into a building if possible.

- Lower fishing poles and other tall object
- Stay in a dry spot on the boat if possible
- Do not touch electrical or metal objects

The best way to protect yourself is to plan ahead so you're not caught outside when storms threaten. Also, be prepared to make a tough decision—to stop your golf game or your work when storms approach. When you think about it, the consequences of missing part of a golf game are a small price to pay for assured safety.

Carry a portable NOAA Weather Radio with you to enable you to keep abreast of all weather situations. These radios provide 24-hour weather coverage from the National Weather Service.

### **For more information**

- [National Lightning Safety Institute](#) provides personal and structural safety tips, interesting and little known lightning information.
- [National Weather Service Lightning Safety](#) provides handouts, indoor and outdoor safety tips, medical facts, history, survivor stories, photos, teacher tools and more