



**No place OUTSIDE is safe during a thunderstorm.**

- Lightning causes dozens of fatalities and hundreds of serious injuries each year.

**The SAFEST location is a fully enclosed building with wiring and plumbing. Such buildings are safe because the current of the strike will pass through the wiring to the ground.**

- Unsafe buildings include picnic or beach shelters, large outdoor tents, or other buildings that do not have electricity or plumbing.

**The second safest location is a hard-topped car, SUV, bus, etc., but not a soft-topped convertible.**

- Close all the windows and doors, and do not touch any metal surfaces.

**Follow the 30-30 rule to be safe. Watch for dark skies, threatening clouds, or increasing winds, even if it is not raining.**

- When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder.
- If that time is 30 seconds or less, the thunderstorm is within 6 miles of where you are and is dangerous—you are close enough to be struck.
- Seek shelter immediately.
- Wait at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder before leaving shelter.
- Don't be fooled by sunshine or blue sky!

**Being caught outside with no safe shelter is a severe emergency—these suggestions won't protect you but may improve your odds.**

- Do not seek shelter under tall, isolated trees.
- Do not seek shelter under partially enclosed buildings or in tents.
- Stay away from metal objects, such as fences, poles, or golf clubs.
- Stay away from water.
- Your last resort is to find the lowest spot around and crouch down.

**If someone is struck by lightning, call 911 or your local emergency number to get immediate medical care.**

- You are in no danger of an electrical charge if you touch a victim or administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

**Be smart—be prepared.**

- Listen to weather forecasts—have a radio with you—and plan ahead for possible shelter in case of a thunderstorm.
- Lightning is most likely to occur in hot, humid, summer weather, during the late afternoon or early evening.
- The chance of being struck by lightning over your lifetime is about 1 in 13,000.

