



CHELAN FIRE and RESCUE
232 East Wapato
Chelan, WA 98816
www.chelan7.com
509-682-4476

Lightning: What You Need to Know

(Information from the National Lightning Safety Institute)

- ☀ **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.
- ☀ Safe shelter is a substantial building or inside an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle.
- ☀ Stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder.

Indoor Lightning Safety Tips

- 1) Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.
- 2) Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.
- 3) Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- 4) Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.

If Someone is Struck by Lightning

- 1) Victims do not carry an electrical charge and may need immediate medical attention.
- 2) Monitor the victim and begin CPR or AED, if necessary.
- 3) Call 911 for help.

Last Resort Outdoor Risk Reduction Tips

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

- 1) Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges or peaks.
- 2) Never lie flat on the ground.
- 3) Never use a tree for shelter.
- 4) Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter.
- 5) Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water.
- 6) Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.).
- 7) Under no circumstances should any of the above actions be taken if a building or an all-metal vehicle is nearby.

Personal Lightning Safety Tips

1. **PLAN** in advance your evacuation and safety measures. When you first see lightning or hear thunder, activate your emergency plan. Now is the time to go to a building or a vehicle. Lightning often precedes rain, so don't wait for the rain to begin before suspending activities.
2. **IF OUTDOORS** Avoid water. Avoid the high ground. Avoid open spaces. Avoid all metal objects including electric wires, fences, machinery, motors, power tools, etc. Unsafe places include underneath canopies, small picnic or rain shelters, or near trees. Where possible, find shelter in a substantial building or in a fully enclosed metal vehicle such as a car, truck or van with the windows completely shut. If lightning is striking nearby when you are outside, you should: A. **Crouch down**. Put feet together. Place hands over ears to minimize hearing damage from thunder. B. **Avoid proximity** (minimum of 15 ft.) to other people.
3. **IF INDOORS** Avoid water. Stay away from doors and windows. Do not use the telephone. Take off headsets. Turn off, unplug and stay away from appliances, computers, power tools & TV sets. Lightning may strike exterior electric and phone lines, inducing shocks to inside equipment.
4. **SUSPEND ACTIVITIES** for 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder.
5. **INJURED PERSONS** do not carry an electrical charge and can be handled safely. Apply First Aid procedures to a lightning victim if you are qualified to do so. Call 911 or send for help immediately.
6. **KNOW YOUR EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS.**