

# Lightning Safety Week

Summer has finally arrived and that means the chances for severe thunderstorms increase across Ohio. From June 19-25, Ohio recognizes Lightning Awareness Safety Week and we encourage all Washington Township residents to know what to do before, during, and after thunderstorms.

So far in 2020, there have been 20 lightning fatalities. Although that number has continued to fall in previous years, lightning strikes continue to be one of the top storm-related killers in the United States. Most lightning victims are struck before or after the storm reaches its greatest intensity. The best way to protect yourself and your family from lightning and the dangers of thunderstorms is to be prepared.

Residents are reminded that performing a simple measure can drastically reduce the chance of severe injury or death during a storm: **When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!**

Washington Township Fire Department suggests the following lightning safety measures:

- **PLAN AHEAD** – Thunderstorms are most likely to develop on spring or summer days, but can also occur at night and during any season. Be sure to have a weather safety plan, including a predetermined safe location. Check the local weather when planning an outdoor activity and again before leaving home. To enhance citizen awareness during emergencies, Washington Township residents are encouraged to sign up for the Dublin's Smart911 community notification system. Smart911 enables residents to sign up for severe weather alerts that are automated and sent to registrants immediately after the National Weather Service issues a severe weather warning for the Dublin area.

- **OUTDOORS** – You are not safe anywhere outside in a thunderstorm. Lightning can strike as far as 25 miles away from where it is raining. Run to a safe building or vehicle when you first hear thunder, see lightning or observe dark, threatening clouds overhead. Stay inside until 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder. Do not seek shelter under trees!
  
- **INDOORS** – Move indoors as soon as possible when thunderstorms appear. Once inside stay off corded phones (use cellular or cordless phones instead), and avoid touching electrical equipment, or plumbing. Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches, and do not lie on concrete floors or lean against concrete walls. Stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last rumble of thunder, and continue to monitor the local weather.
  
- **PROTECT YOUR PETS** – Dog houses are not safe shelters. Dogs that are chained to trees or wire runners are particularly vulnerable. Bring your pets inside during thunderstorms.
  
- **HELPING SOMEONE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING** – If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and seek immediate medical attention. A lightning victim does not carry an electrical charge and is safe to touch. Knowing and implementing first aid measures, which include cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), can help a person struck by lightning survive. Local American Red Cross chapters and many fire departments offer first aid and

CPR classes.

For more additional information on lightning safety, visit  
<https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning>

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