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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
125 PM EDT THU JUN 15 2006

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
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NWS NATIONAL WARNING COORDINATION METEOROLOGIST

SUBJECT: 2006 NATIONAL LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK CAMPAIGN...WHEN
THUNDER ROARS...GO INDOORS

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/S NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION/S (NOAA/S) NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (NWS) WILL BE HOSTING
ITS 6TH ANNUAL LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK CAMPAIGN FROM JUNE 18 TO 24
2006.

THE FOCUS OF THE 2006 CAMPAIGN WILL BE ON EDUCATING EVERYONE OF THEIR OWN
PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN REDUCING THEIR RISK OF BEING KILLED OR INJURED
BY LIGHTNING.

THE GOAL OF THIS CAMPAIGN IS TO TEACH LIGHTNING SAFETY SKILLS TO MILLIONS
OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE NATION. LAST YEAR IN THE UNITED STATES...AT LEAST 43
PEOPLE WERE KILLED FROM DIRECT LIGHTNING STRIKES. ON AVERAGE...LIGHTNING
IS RESPONSIBLE FOR 66 FATALITIES ANNUALLY. IN ADDITION...HUNDREDS OF MORE
PEOPLE ARE INJURED EACH YEAR...MANY WITH SERIOUS AND LASTING IMPACTS ON
THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE SUCH AS PERMANENT NERVE DAMAGE AND HEARING LOSS.

IN THE UNITED STATES...LIGHTNING DEATHS AND INJURIES OCCUR MOST FREQUENTLY
IN OPEN AREAS. LIGHTNING SAFETY IS CRUCIAL WHEN YOU ARE
OUTDOORS...ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE IN
OPEN AREAS LIKE ATHLETIC FIELDS...GOLF COURSES AND BEACHES. IF
OUTDOORS...PLAN TO IMMEDIATELY SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN A SUBSTANTIAL BUILDING
OR HARD-TOPPED VEHICLE IF YOU HEAR THUNDER OR THE SKIES LOOK THREATENING.
THERE IS NO SAFE PLACE OUTDOORS.

PEOPLE ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO LIGHTNING STRIKES WHEN A STORM IS
APPROACHING OR EXITING THEIR AREA. LIGHTNING CAN STRIKE OVER 10 MILES
AWAY FROM A THUNDERSTORM.

ONE OF THE BEST RULES TO FOLLOW TO REMAIN SAFE FROM LIGHTNING WHEN
OUTDOORS IS CALLED THE 30/30 RULE. ONLY USE THE 30/30 RULE WHEN
VISIBILITY IS GOOD AND THERE IS NOTHING OBSTRUCTING YOUR VIEW OF THE
THUNDERSTORM. WHEN YOU SEE LIGHTNING...COUNT THE TIME UNTIL YOU HEAR
THUNDER. IF THAT TIME IS 30 SECONDS OR LESS...THE THUNDERSTORM IS CLOSE
ENOUGH TO BE DANGEROUS. SEEK SHELTER INDOORS IMMEDIATELY. WAIT AT LEAST

30 MINUTES AFTER HEARING THE LAST CLAP OF THUNDER BEFORE LEAVING SHELTER.
DO NOT BE FOOLED BY SUNSHINE OR BLUE SKY.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK IS AVAILABLE
ON THE NWS LIGHTNING SAFETY WEBSITE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.LIGHTNINGSAFETY.NOAA.GOV](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov)

THIS SITE CONTAINS A WEALTH OF INFORMATION ABOUT LIGHTNING SAFETY AND
PROVIDES INSIGHT TO THE SCIENCE AND MEDICAL ASPECTS OF LIGHTNING. THERE
ARE ALSO OUTREACH MATERIALS...INCLUDING POSTERS AND PUBLIC SAFETY
ANNOUNCEMENTS...TO ASSIST WITH LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS EFFORTS. THIS
YEAR...LEON THE LIGHTNING LION...A NEW CARTOON CHARACTER CREATED BY THE
LIGHTNING SAFETY ALLIANCE...IS FEATURED IN A NEW COLORING SHEET FOR
CHILDREN.

LIGHTNING SAFETY TIPS:

1. KEEP AN EYE ON THE SKY. LOOK FOR DARKENING SKIES...FLASHES OF
LIGHTNING...OR INCREASING WIND...WHICH MAY BE SIGNS OF AN APPROACHING
THUNDERSTORM. GET TO A SAFE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY IF A THUNDERSTORM
APPROACHES. COACHES AND OTHER LEADERS SHOULD LISTEN TO NOAA WEATHER RADIO
FOR THE LATEST FORECASTS AND WARNINGS DURING PRACTICE SESSIONS AND GAMES.

2. POSTPONE OR HALT OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES BEFORE THE RAIN BEGINS. MANY
PEOPLE TAKE SHELTER FROM THE RAIN...BUT MOST PEOPLE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING
ARE NOT IN THE RAIN. GO QUICKLY INSIDE A COMPLETELY ENCLOSED
BUILDING...NOT A CARPORT...OPEN GARAGE...DUGOUT OR COVERED PATIO. IF NO
ENCLOSED BUILDING IS NEARBY...GET INSIDE A HARD-TOPPED ALL-METAL VEHICLE
AND REMAIN THERE UNTIL THE STORM HAS SAFELY PASSED.

PLACES TO AVOID INCLUDE: UNDER OR CLOSE TO TREES...SHEDS...PICNIC
SHELTERS...BASEBALL/SOFTBALL DUGOUTS...BLEACHERS...BEACHES AND OPEN
FIELDS. KEEP TWICE AS FAR AWAY FROM A TREE AS IT IS TALL. ALSO STAY AWAY
FROM CLOTHESLINES...FENCES...EXPOSED SHEDS AND ELECTRICALLY CONDUCTIVE
ELEVATED OBJECTS.

3. GET OUT OF THE WATER...IT IS A GREAT CONDUCTOR OF ELECTRICITY. STAY
OFF THE BEACH AND OUT OF SMALL BOATS OR CANOES. IF CAUGHT IN A
BOAT...CROUCH DOWN IN THE CENTER AWAY FROM METAL HARDWARE.
SWIMMING...WADING...SNORKELING AND SCUBA DIVING ARE NOT SAFE.

LIGHTNING CAN STRIKE THE WATER AND TRAVEL SOME DISTANCE BENEATH AND AWAY
FROM ITS POINT OF CONTACT. DO NOT STAND IN PUDDLES OF WATER.

NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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