

# Are you ReadyPA?

## Lightning

According to the National Weather Service, lightning is one of the top three storm-related killers in the United States. In Pennsylvania, there have been eight deaths from lightning since 2007, all occurring outdoors.

### What should you Be Ready for?

#### Health Hazard

- Electrocutation or shock

#### Utility Outages

- Loss of electricity, cable, internet
- Surge causing damage to electronics

Lightning is **hotter** than the surface of the Sun and can reach temperatures around

**50,000° F**

When Thunder Roars Go Indoors  
weather.gov/lightning



### Know The Facts

**MYTH:** Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

**FACT:** Lightning can strike the same location many times.

**MYTH:** A car is safe because of the tires.

**FACT:** Cars are safe because the electricity travels around the frame *through* the tires into the ground.

**MYTH:** I can't touch someone struck by lightning because I will be shocked.

**FACT:** A lightning strike victim carries no electric charge. Call 911, and begin CPR, if trained. Try to move the victim to a safe place.

### How can you Be Ready?

#### Before



- Pay attention to the forecast, especially if you have outdoor plans
- Postpone activities, if storms are in the forecast

#### During



- "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!"
- "When You See a Flash, Dash to Safety" (Phrase for deaf and hard of hearing)
- Avoid anything with a wire, such as phones, computers, and lights.
- Wait at least 30 minutes, after the last rumble of thunder, to go outdoors.
- Stay away from water, wet items, such as ropes, and metal objects, such as fences and poles. Water and metal do not attract lightning but they are excellent conductors of electricity.