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FEMA

Thunderstorms and Lightning

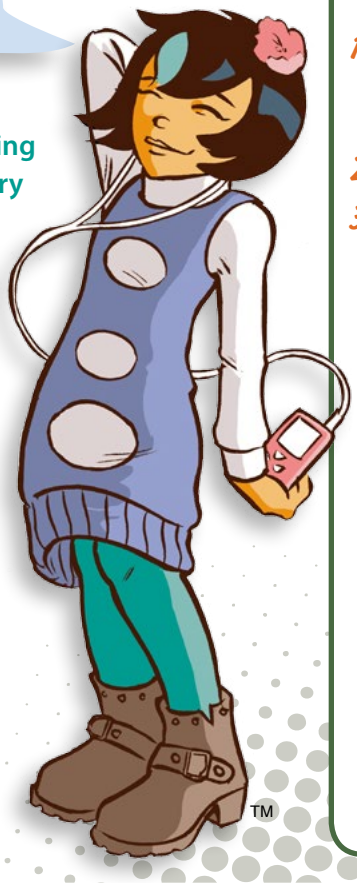
All thunderstorms are dangerous because every thunderstorm produces lightning. Lightning can kill or seriously hurt people. Thunderstorms are also dangerous because they can lead to flash floods.

Am I at risk?

Thunderstorms and lightning happen everywhere, but dry thunderstorms that don't produce rain are most common in the Western U.S. They usually occur in the summer when it's warm and humid.

Did you know?

Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall.



FACT CHECK

1. What is the 30/30 rule? _____

_____

_____

2. **True or False?** Only some thunderstorms are dangerous.
3. Circle the rules you **should** follow below when thunder and lightning are happening in your area:
   - **a.** Avoid contact with corded phones and devices that are plugged in to the wall.
   - **b.** Avoid contact with plumbing. Don't take a shower, and don't wash your hands.
   - **c.** Hide under a tree.
   - **d.** Stay away from windows, doors, and porches.
   - **e.** Do not lie on concrete floors or lean against concrete walls.
   - **f.** Avoid contact with anything metal.
   - **g.** Avoid hilltops, open fields, the beach, or a boat on the water.

ANSWERS

(1) Take appropriate shelter when you can count 30 seconds or less between lightning and thunder. Remain sheltered for 30 minutes after the last thunder.
(2) False. They are all dangerous! Every thunderstorm produces lightning. Some storms can include tornadoes, strong winds, flash floods, and hail.
(3) Follow all rules except for C – Never hide under a tree during thunder and lightning!

BE A HERO!™

For more facts and info on thunderstorms and lightning visit
http://www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts/thunderstorms-and-lightning
visit http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/lightning/resources/LightningFactsSheet.pdf

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Be Prepared

BEFORE

- Build an emergency kit.
- Make a family communications plan.
- Use the 30/30 rule! Go indoors if you see lightning and can't count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay inside for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.

DURING

- Stay inside.
- Don't use items that plug into electrical outlets. Power surges from lightning can come through the cords and hurt you.
- Don't wash your hands, take a bath or take a shower. Faucets can conduct electricity.
- Stay away from windows and doors.
- Don't lie on concrete floors or lean against concrete walls. They conduct electricity.
- Don't touch anything metal outside – bikes, playgrounds, fences.
- Stay away from open fields, hills, or the beach.
- Don't stand near "lightning rods," like tall trees in an open area, or flagpoles.

AFTER

- Stay away from loose or dangling power lines.
- Stay away from areas damaged by the storm or flood waters.

WORDS TO KNOW

Electrocution Death caused by electric shock, like a lightning strike

Power Surge A spike, or huge, quick increase, in the amount of electricity coming through a power line

Heat Lightning Lightning seen from a thunderstorm that is too far away for the thunder to be heard

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