



Line Items

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THE SHOCKING TRUTH ABOUT LIGHTNING

With thunderstorm season upon us, we would like to shed some light on one of Mother Nature's marvels: lightning. If you have lived in South Georgia for any period of time, you know to expect lightning on an almost daily basis during the summer months. Lightning can be a truly beautiful and amazing spectacle, but we should always keep in mind how dangerous and catastrophic a single lightning strike can be.



FACTS:

- ⚡ Lightning is a visible electrical discharge that occurs within a cloud, between two clouds, or between a cloud and the surface of the earth.
- ⚡ A typical lightning strike contains about 300 million volts and 30,000 amps. In comparison, a household electrical current is 120 volts and 15 amps.
- ⚡ An average cloud-to-ground lightning bolt races towards the earth at about 200,000 mph.
- ⚡ As lightning passes through the air it can heat the air to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit (about 5 times hotter than the surface of the sun!). This causes the air to expand rapidly and creates the sound wave we hear as thunder.
- ⚡ At any given time, there is an average of 1,800 thunderstorms around the globe with lightning striking the earth approximately 100 times per second.
- ⚡ Lightning can strike the same place more than once. The Empire State Building in New York City is struck by lightning an average of 23 times per year.
- ⚡ The odds of being struck by lightning in your lifetime is 1 in 15,300.
- ⚡ Most of the people that are injured by lightning while inside their home are talking on a corded telephone.
- ⚡ Lightning is a common cause of power outages due to it striking electrical equipment directly or it striking trees which may fall onto power lines.

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BRONSON BRAGDON
Editor

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When Your Power Is Off — Call (912) 685-2115 or (912) 764-2123

When your power goes off, don't stay in the dark longer than you have to. To restore your power as quickly as possible, we need your correct phone number. Your phone number is the quickest way for us to locate your home or business when you call to report an outage.

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Between the Lines

by
Greg Proctor
President/CEO

Ah, sweet summertime. Whether you have kids at home or not, there is something sort of wonderful about the slower pace of the summer season. July is a great time of year to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. It is also in the middle of a potentially stormy season.

National Lightning Safety Awareness week was started in 2001 to call attention to this underrated killer. Since then, U.S. lightning fatalities have dropped from about 50 per year to about 30. This reduction in fatalities is largely due to greater awareness of the lightning danger, and people seeking safety when thunderstorms threaten.

Lightning kills as many as 2,000 people worldwide every year. Hundreds more people are struck but survive, usually with lingering and debilitating symptoms. Here are some things you can do to avoid electrical storms and decrease your chances of getting struck.

The best way for you to protect yourself from lightning is to avoid the threat. You simply don't want to be caught outside in a storm. Have a lightning safety plan and cancel or postpone activities early if thunderstorms are expected. Monitor weather conditions and get to a safe place before the weather becomes threatening. Substantial buildings and hard-topped vehicles are safe options. Rain shelters, small sheds, and open vehicles are not safe.

If you are caught outside away from a building or car, stay clear of water bodies and tall objects like trees. Find a low spot or depression and crouch down as low as possible, but don't lie down on the ground. Lightning can move in and along the ground surface, and many victims are struck not by bolts but by this current.

If you are inside, avoid taking baths or showers and don't wash dishes. Also avoid using landline phones, televisions, and other appliances that conduct electricity. Stay away from exterior windows and doors that might contain metal components leading from outside your home to the inside. Stay off balconies, porches and out of open garages or car ports.

Protect your pets: Dog houses are not safe shelters. Dogs that are chained to trees or on metal runners are particularly vulnerable to lightning strikes.

Stay inside for 30 minutes after you last see lightning or hear thunder. People have been struck by lightning from storms centered as far as 10 miles away. If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance of the storm.

Just remember, "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!" Too many people wait far too long to get to a safe place when thunderstorms approach. We wish you a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer spent with friends and family.



Every Member Counts



BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.



■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.



■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at www.ready.gov



Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.


AMERICAN SPIRIT

Independence Day is a day to be celebrated by all Americans. On July 4th, communities throughout the United States of America will celebrate the American spirit and the freedoms that we were given. There will be beautiful red, white and blue ribbons, flags and banners strewn through the cities and countryside.

We at Excelsior EMC will proudly display our American Flag showing our gratitude for those who sacrificed for our independence and show our support of this great nation. We join the nation in saluting our independence. However, we are also always mindful of the

potential hazards associated with overhead and underground power lines.

We encourage our members that choose to display flags, banners or ribbons, to do so safely. Please do not attach anything to Excelsior EMC poles. When standing flag poles high into the air, be aware of your surroundings and keep plenty of distance from overhead wires. Before digging the base of a flag pole, call 811 to verify no underground utilities are present. We hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable Independence Day.

78°

The most energy efficient thermostat setting for summer cooling is 78 degrees.



ATTENTION FARMERS

Do you participate in Excelsior EMC's irrigation load management program? If so, we want you to be aware of our new load management notification system.

Technology advancements have allowed Excelsior EMC to update the system that calls load management consumers to notify them that we are entering load management on a given day. In previous years, this phone call would come from our home office number of (912) 685-2115. However, the phone call will now appear as (855) 783-8610. We recommend load man-

agement consumers save this number as Load Management Notification in their phone's contact list.

Additionally, Excelsior's new notification system can send a text message to participating irrigation load management consumers. Oftentimes consumers prefer a text message over a phone call.

If you have questions about Excelsior's irrigation load management program or would like to be added to the phone or text notification list, please give us a call at (912) 685-2115.



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