

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RALEIGH NC
0800 AM EDT TUE JUN 24 2014

The National Weather Service has declared the week of June 22nd through 28th, LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK. This is the second in a series of five public information statements to be issued by the National Weather Service office in Raleigh, NC containing information on lightning and lightning safety.

LIGHTNING'S MOST DEADLY ACTIVITIES

If you're outside when a thunderstorm is in the area, you're at risk of being struck and potentially killed or seriously injured by lightning. However, there are some activities that lead to more lightning deaths and injuries than others.

In the past eight years, leisure activities led to almost two thirds of the lightning fatalities in the United States. Water-related activities, and particularly fishing, contributed most to the fatalities. Since 2006, 30 people who had been fishing died as a result of lightning. Boating and beach activities also contributed significantly to the death toll. In most cases, victims simply waited far too long before starting to seek shelter.

When it comes to water-related activities, there are several important things to remember.

- Always have a plan so that you can get to a safe place before the storm arrives.
- Head to that safe place immediately if you see any signs of a developing or approaching thunderstorm. Don't hesitate.

Question of the day - If water activities are so dangerous, why don't all the fish in a pond or lake get killed when lightning strikes the water?

When lightning strikes water, most of the discharge occurs along the surface of the water. Since most fish swim well below the water surface, they are safe. However, people normally swim along the surface of the water and can easily be killed by a lightning discharge.

Here's a list of topics that were covered earlier this week or will be covered later this week.

MONDAY - Lightning and Lightning Safety - An Introduction
TUESDAY - Lightning's Most Deadly Activities
WEDNESDAY - Lightning Safety and Sports Activities
THURSDAY - Lightning Safety At Work
FRIDAY - Lightning Safety Around The Home

For additional information about lightning or lightning safety, visit NOAA's Lightning Safety Awareness web site at:

<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov>

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