

Governor John Hickenlooper has declared the week of June 24 through June 30 as Colorado Lightning Safety Awareness Week. Lightning strikes the ground in our state over a half million times each year and with many of us participating in outdoor activities, we need to learn how to protect ourselves from lightning hazards.

Lightning is also responsible for about half of the wildfires in Colorado each year. When lightning or other conditions are conducive to a high wildfire threat, the National Weather Service will issue Fire Weather Watches or Red Flag Warnings.

During this week a series of statements will cover a variety of topics related to lightning and wildfires.

Monday.....Lightning overview for Colorado
Tuesday.....The science of lightning
Wednesday....Outdoor lightning risk reduction
Thursday.....Indoor lightning safety
Friday.....Lightning medical issues for survivors
Saturday.....Lightning and wildfires

Here are a couple of web sites that contain additional lightning information.

NOAA's lightning website which contains abundant information on lightning safety can be found at:

www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov

Lightning information specific for the State of Colorado can be found at:

www.weather.gov/pub/lightning