Be Alert!

• If the weather forecast calls for a chance of thunderstorms, be ready to take lightning safety steps.

• If the National Weather Service issues a **SIGNIFICANT WEATHER ALERT** for frequent or excessive lightning, take immediate lightning safety steps.

• **Follow this safety rule:** When thunder roars, go indoors! If you can hear thunder, you are in danger of being struck by lightning. *Stay indoors until 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder*.

Lightning Safety Tips

•Get indoors! … or in a vehicle. If neither are possible, stay away from trees, fences, poles, or any tall objects.

• If outdoors, tingling skin or standing hair is a warning of an IMMINENT LIGHTNING STRIKE. Squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place hands on knees with head between them. Make yourself as small as possible and minimize contact with the ground.

•If you are stuck in a forest, stay away from the tallest trees.

• Get out of boats and away from water.

• Avoid using the telephone or any electrical appliance unless there is an emergency. Turn off air conditioners.

• Do not take a bath or shower.

Be Prepared!

• Protect your valuables; use surge protectors on all electronic devices in your home.

• Protect your home; install lightning rods on the roof

• Protect your property; consider having a lightning protection system professionally installed.

• Lightning protection systems act to divert lightning, rather than prevent it, by having metal equipment that will help guide the lightning bolt into a safe location in the ground, keeping your home from being damaged.

• In addition to residences, lightning protection systems are available for commercial and other buildings as well as trees.

For more information on lightning protection systems and for lists of certified lightning protection system installers, see:

• Lightning Protection Institute (http://www.lightning.org)

• Lightning Safety Alliance (http://www.lightningsafetyalliance.com)

• Underwriters Laboratories (http://www.ul.com/lightning)

For further general information on lightning safety, go to the National Weather Service Lightning Safety Program, at:

•http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov

LIGHTNING

Georgia's Underrated Killer

Facts and ways to keep you and your home safe

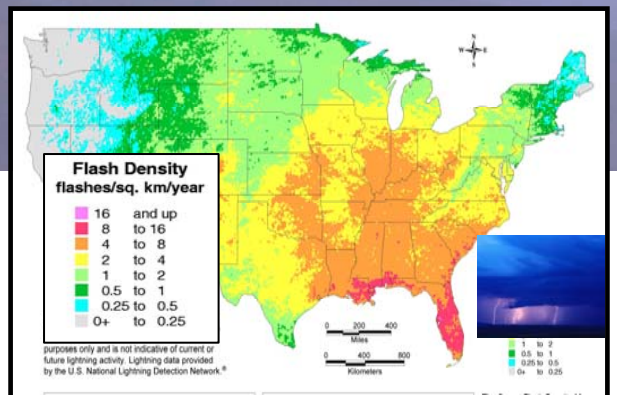
National Weather Service
Peachtree City, GA
www.weather.gov/atlanta

Lightning Facts

- Lightning occurs in all thunderstorms.
- Lightning is caused by the buildup and discharge of electrical energy between positively and negatively charged areas, that have been separated by the rising and sinking wind currents in a thunderstorm.
- On average, a single lightning bolt reaches a temperature of 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit and produces enough electricity to power a 100 watt light bulb for 3 months.
- Thunder is a result of the rapid heating and then cooling of air surrounding the lightning strike.
- Lightning causes several million dollars of damage to property and forests annually in the United States, on average.
- Over 1,500 fires per year are caused by lightning and some 2 million acres of forest are lost.

Lightning Dangers

- The estimated odds of being struck by lightning are 1 in 600,000.
- Most lightning injuries and deaths occur outdoors,
- Nationally, most lightning incidences occur in the summer months and during the afternoon and evening.
- People at high risk for lightning strikes include: boaters, swimmers, golfers, bikers, and anyone doing outdoor activities.
- Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur well away from the area of rain.
- Rubber tires on a car or soles of shoes do not protect from a lightning strike. However, the steel frame of a vehicle provides protection as long as you are not in contact with the metal.



Lightning in Georgia

- Georgia is the 8th highest state in terms of density of lightning strikes per square mile.
- Between 2000 and 2007, over 175 people have been injured or killed by lightning in Georgia.
- Property damage estimates from 2000-2007 indicate around $50 million damages due to lightning.
- The lightning strikes from thunderstorms in June, July, and August account for over half of all injuries and deaths, and over 75% of property damage annually.
- Many insurance companies provide discounts on homeowners and commercial rates for lightning protection systems.