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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
125 PM EDT THU JUN 15 2006

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS...NOAA  
WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS... EMERGENCY  
MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/  
SUBSCRIBERS...NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS...OTHER NATIONAL  
WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS...AND NWS  
EMPLOYEES

FROM: CHRISTOPHER T. MAIER  
NWS NATIONAL WARNING COORDINATION METEOROLOGIST

SUBJECT: 2006 NATIONAL LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK CAMPAIGN

WHEN THUNDER ROARS...GO INDOORS

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE'S NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION'S (NOAA) NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
(NWS) WILL BE HOSTING ITS 6TH ANNUAL LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS  
WEEK CAMPAIGN FROM JUNE 18-24 2006.

THE FOCUS OF THE 2006 CAMPAIGN WILL BE ON EDUCATING EVERYONE OF  
THEIR OWN PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN REDUCING THEIR RISK OF BEING  
KILLED OR INJURED BY LIGHTNING.

THE GOAL OF THIS CAMPAIGN IS TO TEACH LIGHTNING SAFETY SKILLS TO  
MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE NATION. LAST YEAR IN THE UNITED  
STATES...AT LEAST 43 PEOPLE WERE KILLED FROM DIRECT LIGHTNING  
STRIKES. ON AVERAGE LIGHTNING IS RESPONSIBLE FOR 66 FATALITIES  
ANNUALLY. IN ADDITION...HUNDREDS OF MORE PEOPLE ARE INJURED EACH  
YEAR... MANY WITH SERIOUS AND LASTING IMPACTS ON THEIR QUALITY OF  
LIFE SUCH AS PERMANENT NERVE DAMAGE AND HEARING LOSS.

IN THE UNITED STATES... LIGHTNING DEATHS AND INJURIES OCCUR MOST  
FREQUENTLY IN OPEN AREAS. LIGHTNING SAFETY IS CRUCIAL WHEN YOU  
ARE OUTDOORS...ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY ACTIVITIES  
TAKING PLACE IN OPEN AREAS LIKE ATHLETIC FIELDS...GOLF COURSES  
AND BEACHES. IF OUTDOORS...PLAN TO IMMEDIATELY SEEK SAFE SHELTER  
IN A SUBSTANTIAL BUILDING OR HARD-TOPPED VEHICLE IF YOU HEAR  
THUNDER OR THE SKIES LOOK THREATENING. THERE IS NO SAFE PLACE  
OUTDOORS.

PEOPLE ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO LIGHTNING STRIKES WHEN A  
STORM IS APPROACHING OR EXITING THEIR AREA. LIGHTNING CAN STRIKE  
OVER 10 MILES AWAY FROM A THUNDERSTORM.

ONE OF THE BEST RULES TO FOLLOW TO REMAIN SAFE FROM LIGHTNING  
WHEN OUTDOORS IS CALLED THE 30/30 RULE. ONLY USE THE 30/30 RULE

WHEN VISIBILITY IS GOOD AND THERE IS NOTHING OBSTRUCTING YOUR VIEW OF THE THUNDERSTORM. WHEN YOU SEE LIGHTNING...COUNT THE TIME UNTIL YOU HEAR THUNDER. IF THAT TIME IS 30 SECONDS OR LESS...THE THUNDERSTORM IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO BE DANGEROUS. SEEK SHELTER INDOORS IMMEDIATELY. WAIT AT LEAST 30 MINUTES AFTER HEARING THE LAST CLAP OF THUNDER BEFORE LEAVING SHELTER. DO NOT BE FOOLED BY SUNSHINE OR BLUE SKY.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK IS AVAILABLE ON THE NWS LIGHTNING SAFETY WEBSITE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.LIGHTNINGSAFETY.NOAA.GOV](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov)

THIS SITE CONTAINS A WEALTH OF INFORMATION ABOUT LIGHTNING SAFETY AND PROVIDES INSIGHT TO THE SCIENCE AND MEDICAL ASPECTS OF LIGHTNING. THERE ARE ALSO OUTREACH MATERIALS...INCLUDING POSTERS AND PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENTS...TO ASSIST WITH LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS EFFORTS. THIS YEAR LEON THE LIGHTNING LION...A NEW CARTOON CHARACTER CREATED BY THE LIGHTNING SAFETY ALLIANCE...IS FEATURED IN A NEW COLORING SHEET FOR CHILDREN.

LIGHTNING SAFETY TIPS:

1. KEEP AN EYE ON THE SKY. LOOK FOR DARKENING SKIES...FLASHES OF LIGHTNING...OR INCREASING WIND...WHICH MAY BE SIGNS OF AN APPROACHING THUNDERSTORM. GET TO A SAFE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY IF A THUNDERSTORM APPROACHES. COACHES AND OTHER LEADERS SHOULD LISTEN TO NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR THE LATEST FORECASTS AND WARNINGS DURING PRACTICE SESSIONS AND GAMES.

2. POSTPONE OR HALT OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES BEFORE THE RAIN BEGINS. MANY PEOPLE TAKE SHELTER FROM THE RAIN...BUT MOST PEOPLE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING ARE NOT IN THE RAIN. GO QUICKLY INSIDE A COMPLETELY ENCLOSED BUILDING...NOT A CARPORT...OPEN GARAGE...DUGOUT OR COVERED PATIO. IF NO ENCLOSED BUILDING IS NEARBY...GET INSIDE A HARD-TOPPED ALL-METAL VEHICLE AND REMAIN THERE UNTIL THE STORM HAS SAFELY PASSED.

3. PLACES TO AVOID INCLUDE: UNDER OR CLOSE TO TREES... SHEDS... PICNIC SHELTERS...BASEBALL/SOFTBALL DUGOUTS...BLEACHERS... BEACHES AND OPEN FIELDS. KEEP TWICE AS FAR AWAY FROM A TREE AS IT IS TALL. ALSO STAY AWAY FROM CLOTHES LINES...FENCES... EXPOSED SHEDS...AND ELECTRICALLY CONDUCTIVE ELEVATED OBJECTS.

4. GET OUT OF THE WATER...IT IS A GREAT CONDUCTOR OF ELECTRICITY. STAY OFF THE BEACH AND OUT OF SMALL BOATS OR CANOES. IF CAUGHT IN A BOAT...CROUCH DOWN IN THE CENTER AWAY FROM METAL HARDWARE. SWIMMING...WADING...SNORKELING...AND SCUBA DIVING ARE NOT SAFE.

LIGHTNING CAN STRIKE THE WATER AND TRAVEL SOME DISTANCE BENEATH AND AWAY FROM ITS POINT OF CONTACT. DO NOT STAND IN PUDDLES OF WATER.

THIS AND OTHER NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE  
AVAILABLE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIF.HTM](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm)

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