



Mission Success Starts With Safety



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SSC Monthly Construction Contractor Meeting

# Safety Presentation

Aug 3, 2023



# Lightning Safety

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

About 40 million lightning strikes hit the ground in the United States each year. But the odds of being struck by lightning in a given year are less than one in a million, and almost 90% of all lightning strike victims survive. The odds of being struck multiple times is even less, with the record being seven times in one lifetime. There are some factors that can put you at greater risk for being struck, such as participating in outdoor recreational activities or working outside. Regional and seasonal differences can also affect your risk of being struck by lightning.

### Safe Plan of Action

When thunderstorms threaten, get to a safe place. Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing provide the best protection. Sheds, picnic shelters, tents or covered porches do NOT protect you from lightning. If a sturdy building is not nearby, get into a hard-topped metal vehicle and close all the windows. Stay inside until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder.

While on-site, the SSC Lighting Detection System [documented in Stennis Common Work Instruction (SCWI-8715-0001)] is operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This system audibly alerts personnel of a lightning advisory when potential or actual lightning activity has been detected within a ten-mile radius of SSC. Email notifications are also distributed. Lightning warnings are dispersed when lightning is indicated within five miles of SSC and instructs personnel to “immediately secure outside activities and take shelter in a secure location.” If you hear a lightning advisory or warning, follow the precautions.



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Starts With Safety



When  
Thunder  
Roars  
Go Indoors!

# Lightning Information for Beach and Water Activities

Steps you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones from lightning while participating in water activities.



## Check the Forecast

Before leaving for the beach or any water activity, such as a boating trip, check the weather forecast so you know what to expect during the day. If the forecast is for thunderstorms, plan your trip for another day.

## Listen to the Forecast Learn How to Read the Weather

It is crucial to listen to weather information when you are at the beach or boating. Short-term forecasts are quite accurate, but sometimes miss some very localized storms. Watch for the development of large, well-defined rising cumulus clouds. Cumulus clouds have flat bases and dome or cauliflower shapes. Cumulus clouds can develop into thunderstorms. Once the clouds reach 30,000 feet, the thunderstorm is generally developing, and it is time to head for shore. As clouds become darker and more anvil-shaped, the storm is already in progress.

## If you are Out in the Open Water and a Storm Rolls in, Return to Shore Immediately and Seek Shelter

Once on land, get at least 100 yards away from shore. If you are unable to return to shore, boats with cabins offer some protection. When inside the cabin during a lightning storm, stay away from all metal and electrical components, including the radio, unless it is an emergency. If caught in a storm in a small boat with no cabin, drop anchor and get as low as possible.

## Watch and Listen for Distant Storm Activity

Watch for distant lightning and listen for distant thunder. You might hear thunder before you see lightning on a bright day. If you hear thunder or see lightning, seek shelter away from the water.

## Go Indoors

Remember the phrase, "When thunder roars, go indoors." If you hear thunder while you are at the beach, find a safe, enclosed shelter, such as your car. Do NOT seek shelter under beach picnic shelters.

