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Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA
1040 AM EDT Mon Jun 19 2023

...NATIONAL LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK...LIGHTNING SAFETY...

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared June 19 through June 23 as Lightning Safety Awareness Week. Each day during the awareness week will feature information about a different lightning related topic.

Lightning Safety: Although spring and summer are the most deadly seasons for strikes, lightning can occur in any of the 50 states or U.S. territories at any time of the year. Lightning claims dozens of lives each year and leaves hundreds of other with long-term or even permanent health problems including paralysis, brain injuries, depression, headaches and vision problems.

Lightning also is responsible for hundreds of fires in homes and businesses and has caused dangerous and expensive wildfires. On average, lightning causes \$30-\$50 million dollars in damages and claims 30-40 lives each year. Many of these deaths are fishermen, boaters, or other sports enthusiasts and outdoor workers who did not head in soon enough or listen to the forecast before setting out. Being prepared and knowing how to stay safe will help you and your loved ones stay alive and well. Stay safe during a thunderstorm by being prepared in advance.

Be a Force of Nature. When Thunder Roars, Stay Indoors! Find out tips for safety indoors and outdoors near and far from home at our website: weather.gov/lightning

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For the latest updates...please visit our webpage at www.weather.gov/boston

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Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA
530 AM EDT Tue Jun 20 2023

...LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK CONTINUES...LIGHTNING SAFETY
INDOORS...

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared June 19 through June 23 as Lightning Safety Awareness Week. Each day during the awareness week will feature information about a different lightning related topic.

Lightning Safety in Your Home or Business Lightning claims 30-40 lives each year and hundreds more are left with lifelong disabilities.

When you hear thunder, immediately head to a fully enclosed building with electricity and/or plumbing or to a hard topped vehicle. Dugouts, picnic shelters and open garages are NOT safe, nor are motorcycles and construction vehicles that aren't fully enclosed. Once inside a building or vehicle, close all the windows and do not touch electrical equipment or plumbing. Stay off corded phones, cell phones and cordless phones are OK to use. Turn off your computer and stop cooking. It's OK to use remotes, but don't touch TVs and other appliances directly. Don't take a shower or bath during a thunderstorm. Try to stay away from windows, lightning can leak in corners.

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Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA
630 AM EDT Wed Jun 21 2023

...LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK CONTINUES...

Lightning Facts...

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared June 19 through June 23 as Lightning Safety Awareness Week. Each day during the awareness week will feature information about a different lightning related topic.

While lightning can be fascinating to watch, it is also a potential killer. In the United States, there are between 20 and 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes each year. Each one of those 25 million flashes is a potential killer.

In addition to the deaths and injuries, lightning causes considerable damage across the nation. Each year, lightning is the cause of about 25,000 fires, including about 4400 house fires, 1800 other structural fires, and numerous forest fires. Those fires are responsible for an additional estimated 12 deaths per year. All totaled, lightning causes nearly \$1 billion in damages each year.

Remember there is no safe place outside during a thunderstorm. When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors! weather.gov/lightning

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Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA
725 AM EDT Thu Jun 22 2023

...LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK CONTINUES...

Lightning Safety Outdoors...

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared June 19 through June 23 as Lightning Safety Awareness Week. Each day during the awareness week will feature information about a different lightning related topic.

Last Resort Tips For When You are Far from a Safe Place: When you are going camping, hiking, fishing or taking part in other activities where you will be far from an enclosed building or vehicle, you are NOT safe during a thunderstorm.

If you absolutely cannot get to a safe building or vehicle, you can slightly lessen the threat of being struck with the following tips:

Avoid open fields, the top of a hill or a ridge top. Stay away from tall, isolated trees or other tall objects. If you are in a forest, stay near a lower stand of trees. If you are in a group, spread out to avoid the current traveling between group members. If you are camping in an open area, set up camp in a valley or other low area.

Remember, a tent offers NO protection from lightning. Stay away from water, wet items, such as ropes, and metal objects, such as fences and poles. Water and metal do not attract lightning, but they are excellent conductors of electricity. The current from a lightning flash will easily travel for long distances.

But don't kid yourself, you are NOT safe outside. Know the weather patterns of the area you plan to visit. For example, in mountainous areas, thunderstorms typically develop in the early afternoon, so plan to hike early in the day and be down the mountain by noon. Listen to the weather forecast for the outdoor area you plan to visit. The forecast may be very different from the one near your home. If there is a high chance of thunderstorms, stay home or near a safe location you can get to easily.

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