

SAFETY



MATTERS

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SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

Thunderstorms

Thunderstorm Safety Tips:

- Don't underestimate the power of thunderstorm winds known as straight-line winds, they can reach speeds of 100 to 150 mph. Hurricane-force winds start at 74 mph. Seek shelter immediately as you would for a tornado.
- Stay away from windows and go to the basement or interior room/hallway. Do not use electrical appliances during a thunderstorm.
- Be aware of tall trees near a building that can be uprooted by straight-line winds and can crash through roofs crushing people to death.
- Powerful straight-line winds can overturn a vehicle or even make a person air-borne when they exceed 100 mph! One type of a straight-line wind event is a downburst, which is a small area of rapidly descending rain and cooled air beneath a thunderstorm. A downburst can cause damage equivalent to a strong tornado!

For further information go to: <http://www.ready.gov/thunderstorms-lightning>

Lightning Safety Tips:

- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are imminent. Lightning can travel 5-10 miles away from the thunderstorm and strike the ground even with blue sky overhead.
- Move to a sturdy shelter or vehicle. Do not take shelter in a small shed, under isolated trees, or in a convertible-top vehicle. Stay away from tall objects such as: trees, towers or poles.
- If in your vehicle when lightning strikes don't touch any metal surface. You are safer in a vehicle than being outdoors.
- Remember that utility lines or pipes can carry electrical current underground or through a building. Avoid electrical appliances, and use telephones or computers only in an emergency.
- If you feel your hair standing on end, get down into a baseball catcher's position and plug your ears with your fingertips so if lightning does hit it will not blow your ear drums out. Do not lie flat!
- 30/30 rule, if the time between lighting and thunder is 30 seconds or less, go to a safe shelter. Stay there until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder.

For further information go to: www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov.

THUNDERSTORMS & LIGHTNING

All thunderstorms are dangerous and every thunderstorm produces lightning. While lightning fatalities have decreased over the past 30 years, lightning continues to be one of the top three storm-related killers in the United States. On average in the U.S., lightning kills 51 people and injures hundreds more annually. Although most lightning victims survive, people struck by lightning often report a variety of long-term, debilitating symptoms.

For more safety resources, visit www.NFIB.com/safetymatters

For information about any of Markel's Loss Control Services, please call (888) 500-3344 or email safetymatters@markelcorp.com.

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