

# THUNDERSTORM AND LIGHTNING SAFETY



Thunderstorms that include lightning are a common occurrence in Ohio, but with the right knowledge and a little preparation, you and your family can stay safe when dark clouds roll into your neighborhood.

## What is a Thunderstorm?

According to the National Weather Service, a thunderstorm is a “rain-bearing cloud that also produces lightning.” Additionally, they can include strong winds, hail, and flash flooding. Thunderstorms are most likely in the spring and summer months, but they can occur at any time during the year.

## Severe Thunderstorm Watches and Warnings

Meteorologists, or scientists who study weather, constantly monitor conditions to help keep us safe. Most TV and radio stations will provide this information on their broadcasts. Additionally, many local emergency services agencies offer text alerts you can sign up for to receive information directly.



The National Weather Service issues a **severe thunderstorm watch** when severe thunderstorms are possible in and near the watch area.

A **severe thunderstorm warning** is issued when severe weather has been reported by spotters or shown on a radar.

When a warning is issued, it's important for you and your family to take shelter right away.

# Thunderstorm and Lightning Safety Tips

Whether you are outside or inside when severe weather hits, there steps you can take to stay safe.

## If you are outside...



Move into a building or a fully enclosed shelter like a vehicle and close the windows.



Avoid metal objects such as electrical wires, fences, and golf clubs.



Avoid running water, especially swimming pools.



Unsafe places during lightning include tents, golf carts, small open-sided shelters, and under tall, isolated trees.

## If you are inside...



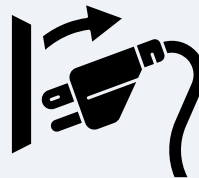
Stay away from open doors and windows.



Avoid contact with water, including showers, baths, or laundry.



Stay in shelter until the storm subsides.



Unplug computers, electronics, and other unnecessary appliances as an extra precaution.

For more safety information, visit  
[www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov)

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