

# LIGHTNING MYTHS EXPOSED

Summer is the peak time of the year for lightning strikes and fires. Know the facts and debunk the myths to stay safe.

**100**  
LIGHTNING STRIKES  
EACH SECOND



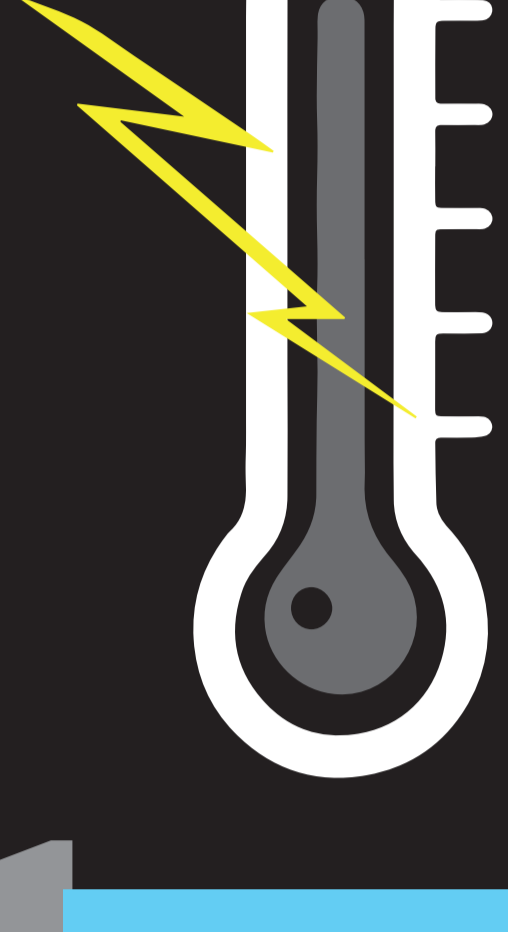
**8.6 M** STRIKES  
EACH DAY

BETWEEN 2007-2011

**22,600** LIGHTNING FIRES

WERE REPORTED

**\$451 M** IN PROPERTY DAMAGE



A SINGLE BOLT  
CAN REACH

**50,000°**

FAHRENHEIT

**5X'S** HOTTER  
THAN THE SUN



## 1 MYTH

Lightning only strikes tallest objects.



## FACT

It can hit anything of any height.

**SAFETY TIP: ONLY SHELTERS THAT CONTAIN PLUMBING/WIRING THROUGHOUT, OR A MECHANISM FOR GROUNDING FROM THE ROOF TO GROUND ARE SAFE**

## 2 MYTH

Rubber tires on a car keep you safe.



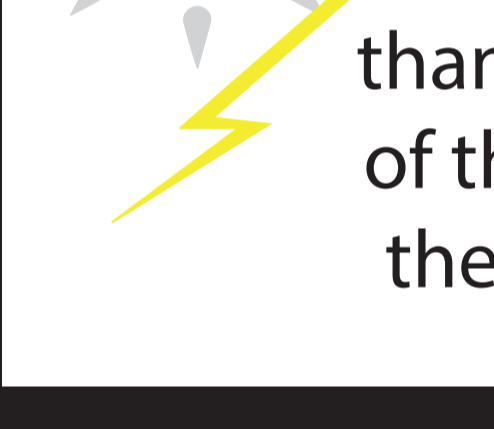
## FACT

The metal frame does.

**SAFETY TIP: DON'T TOUCH INTERIOR METALLIC AREAS ON A VEHICLE**

## 3 MYTH

If it's not raining or there aren't clouds overhead, you're safe from lightning.



## FACT

Lightning often strikes more than three miles from the center of the thunderstorm, far outside the rain or thunderstorm cloud.

**SAFETY TIP: WHEN THUNDER ROARS GO INDOORS**

## 4 MYTH

Surge suppressors can protect a structure against lightning.



## FACT

Surge suppressors are important, but can do nothing to protect a structure against a direct lightning strike.

**SAFETY TIP: CONSIDER INSTALLING A LIGHTNING PROTECTION SYSTEM**

## 5 MYTH

If you are caught outside, assume the lightning squat.



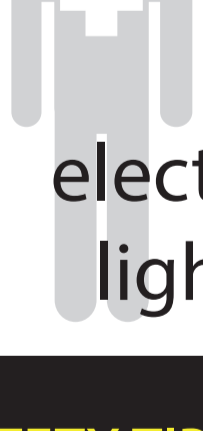
## FACT

People are endangered by ground lightning because if lightning hits a tree, it can spread along the surface of the earth. Keep moving and seek shelter at the first sign of a storm.

**SAFETY TIP: DO NOT LIE ON CONCRETE FLOORS NOR LEAN ON CONCRETE WALLS**

## 6 MYTH

A lightning victim is electrified. If you touch them, you'll be electrocuted.



## FACT

The human body does not store electricity. It is perfectly safe to touch a lightning victim to give them first aid.

**SAFETY TIP: CALL 911 AND ADMINISTER CARE TO THE VICTIM**

## 7 MYTH

If it takes less than 30 seconds to hear thunder after a lightning flash, you are close enough to be in danger.



## FACT

The new rule is to go inside a shelter or hard-topped metal vehicle at the first sound of thunder.

**SAFETY TIP: STAY IN A SAFE SHELTER AT LEAST 30 MINUTES AFTER YOU HEAR THE LAST SOUND OF THUNDER**

## 8 MYTH

If you are in a building, you are 100% safe from lightning.



## FACT

A building is a safe place to be during a thunderstorm as long as you avoid anything that conducts electricity.

**SAFETY TIP: AVOID CONTACT WITH ANY PLUMBING & STAY OFF ELECTRONICS DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH ELECTRICITY**

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