



## Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

[www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm](http://www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm)

### Lightning Safety

The best thing you can do to avoid lightning danger is learn and practice good lightning safety!

No place outside is safe near a thunderstorm!

The '**30-30 Rule**' offers the best lightning safety guidance for the general public. When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If that is **30 seconds** or less, the thunderstorm is close enough to be dangerous – seek shelter. Wait **30 minutes** or more after the lightning flash before leaving shelter.

A house, or other fully enclosed substantially constructed building, offers your best protection against lightning. But stay away from telephones, plumbing, TVs, radios, other wires, or any other conducting path leading outside. (substantially constructed” means it has wiring and plumbing)

A car with a metal roof and sides is your second best protection against lightning. As in a house, don't touch any conducting paths leading outside. It's the metal shell that protects you, **not** the rubber tires.

Lightning is the #2 weather killer in the US - killing more than hurricanes and tornadoes combined! (only floods kill more)

Lightning inflicts severe life-long injuries on many more than it kills!

Lightning kills about 100 people in the United States. each year!

Lightning injures about 750 people in the US each year!

Lightning causes about \$5 billion of economic impact in the US each year!

The odds of an individual being struck by lightning in a year in the US is about 600,000-to-one -

The odds of an individual being killed by lightning each year in the US is about 3 million-to-one

10 July 1926: lightning exploded a Navy ammunition depot, Mount Hope, NJ - 19 people died, 38 wounded, and cost \$81 million to rebuild (1999 dollars)!

6 May 1937: Hindenberg Airship destroyed by an electrostatic discharge - 97 people died!

June 1998: lightning struck an outdoor rock concert with 35,000 people in Baltimore, MD - 13 people were injured, despite the installed lightning rods!

July 1998: 5 firefighters were injured when lightning struck their firetruck in Las Vegas, NV.

October 1998: lightning killed 11 soccer players in Congo, Africa, apparently via a ground streamer, rather than a direct strike.