

Information for you



Lightning causes more deaths annually in the U.S. than any other storm related phenomena (except flood). Electrical storms develop quickly and you may only have a matter of seconds to act.

When lightning is predicted or is in your area, seek shelter.

No place is absolutely safe, but some are better:

- Large enclosed structures (houses or office buildings) are safer than smaller or open air structures (under picnic tables or trees).
- Vehicles and buses provide good protection.

What to do if you are outside:

- Find shelter immediately.
- Pay attention to warning sirens.
- Seeing is deceiving—lightning often strikes outside of the storm.
- If you feel your hair stand on end, squat immediately with your head between your knees. Do not lie flat.
- Avoid high places, open fields, isolated trees, gazebos, picnic shelters, lightpoles, bleachers and any water (swimming pools, lakes, rivers, ponds).

What to do if you are inside:

- Do not use the telephone.
- Do not touch any cable TV or electrical wiring, plumbing, metal windows or door frames.
- Do not shower, wash hands or do dishes.
- If the power is out, turn off furnaces, TVs, computers, etc., to reduce damage in case your house is struck by lightning or when power is restored.

Martin Insurance Agency, Inc.
1-812-752-2581 Office
www.Martin-Insurance.com

Email:

steve@martin-insurance.com
matt@martin-insurance.com
greg@martin-insurance.com

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