

Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief | JUNE 15, 2017



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When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors



Summer begins on June 21 and, according to the [National Weather Service \(NWS\)](#), increases in lightning strikes begin this season.

While the warm weather invites many outside activities, if you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you. Take a moment

during [National Lightning Safety Awareness Week](#) (June 18-24) to learn how to stay safe in a thunderstorm with tips from [NWS](#).

Outdoors:

- When thunder roars, go indoors - move inside a sturdy building or hard top vehicle with the windows up as soon as you hear thunder.
- Do not take shelter in small sheds, gazebos, dugouts, bleachers, under isolated trees, or a convertible automobile.
- Avoid open fields, the top of a hill, or a ridge top.
- Stay away from water, wet items, such as ropes, and metal objects, such as fences and poles. Water and metal do not attract lightning but they are excellent conductors of electricity.

Indoors:

- Stay indoors. Stay inside at least 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder.
- Do not touch anything plugged into an electrical outlet.
- Use a corded telephone only for emergencies; cordless and cellular phones are safe to use.
- Avoid contact with plumbing; do not wash your hands; and do not take a shower or bath.

Grill Safely This Summer



Learning about grilling safety can make your summer barbecue a fun day for everyone!

The [U.S. Fire Administration \(USFA\)](#) recommends the following tips for preventing

burns and controlling the flames while you grill outside:

- Only use your grill outside. Keep it away from siding and deck rails.
- Wear short sleeves or roll them up when cooking on the grill.
- Open your gas grill before lighting.
- Use long-handled barbecue tools.
- Keep a three-foot safe zone around grills, fire pits, and campfires. This will help keep kids and pets safe.
- Never leave your grill, fire pit, or patio torches unattended.
- Clean your grill after each use. This will remove grease that can start a fire.
- Place the coals from your grill in a metal can with a lid once they have cooled.

For more information on first aid for burns or fire prevention during the summer months, visit the [USFA Summer Fire Safety](#) page.