



SPECIAL POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- Seek safe shelter
- Things to avoid
- Helping a strike victim
- Protect yourself Outside
- After the storm passes
- Protect your property
- Conduct inventory
- Protect Pets

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# Hats ON for Safety

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 14

SEPTEMBER 2007

## When Thunder Roars

**Go in doors.** There are an estimated 25 million lightning flashes each year. During the past 30 years, lightning killed an average of 62 people per year...this ties the average of 62 deaths per year caused by tornadoes. Lightning does not cause the mass destruction of property so it is underrated as a risk.

► An approaching thunderstorm—when to **seek safe shelter.**

Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles from the area where it is raining. That's about the distance you can hear thunder. If you hear thunder, you are within striking distance—seek shelter.

► Outdoor activities:

### Protect Yourself Outside

- Go to a low lying open place away from trees, poles, or metal objects. Make sure the place is not subject to flooding.
- Be a very small target!

**minimize the risk of being struck:** Stop activities at the first roar of thunder to ensure time to get to a building or vehicle.



► Indoor activities: **Things to avoid:** Stay off corded phones, computers and other equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity. Stay away from pools (indoors and out) bathtubs, showers and other plumbing. Buy

surge suppressors for key equipment. Wait 30 minutes after the last strike before going outside again.

► Draw blinds or shades over windows. If windows break due to objects blown by wind, the shades will prevent glass from shattering into your home.

► If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees.

► **Helping a strike victim:** If a person is struck by lightning call 911 immediately. With proper treatment including CPR if necessary, most victims survive a lightning strike. You are in no danger helping a victim. The charge will not affect you.

a larger target!

### After the Storm Passes

Stay away from storm damaged areas and listen to the radio for information and instructions.

- Do not lie flat on the ground—this will make you

## Protect Your Property

If you are not sure where to start, fire departments will often make house calls to evaluate your property.

- ▶ Install smoke detectors.
- ▶ Secure objects that could fall and cause damage in earthquake, high winds, etc.
- ▶ Cover windows, turn off utilities, or move possessions to a safer location if you have adequate warning of something like a hurricane or flood.
- ▶ Have your house inspected by a building inspector or architect to find out what structural improvements could prevent or reduce major damage from disasters.

## Conduct a Household Inventory

1. Help you prove the value of what you owned if those possessions are damaged or destroyed.
2. Make it more likely you'll receive a fast, fair payment from your insurance company.
3. Provide documentation for tax deductions you claim for your losses.



*Computer software programs are available to make this easier.*

What are **\*YOU\*** worried about? Help us out by letting us know about safety topics that could help keep your workplace safe!

## Don't Forget the Pets!



Contact your veterinarian

or local humane society for information on preparing your pets for an emergency.

### Before the disaster:

- Make sure that your pets are current on their vaccinations.
- Have a current picture.
- Keep a collar with identification on your pet and have a leash on hand to control it.

Have a properly-sized pet carrier for each animal.

•Plan your evacuation strategy and don't forget your pet! (Specialized pet shelters, animal control shelters, veterinary clinics and friends out of harm's way are all potential refuges for your pet.)

### During the Disaster

- Animals brought to a pet shelter are required to have: proper identification collar and rabies tag, proper identification on all belongings, a leash, ample food supply, necessary medications, newspapers or trash bags for cleanup.
- Bring pet indoor well in advance of a storm—reassure them and remain calm.
- Pet shelters will be filled on a first come basis. Call ahead.

*Some information in this newsletter was taken from [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) and [nhc.noaa.gov](http://nhc.noaa.gov).*

### After the Disaster

Walk pets on a leash until they become re-oriented to their home—often a scent or landmark may be altered and pets could be confused and become lost. Downed power lines, reptiles brought in with high water and debris can pose a threat for animals.

If pets cannot be found, contact the local animal control to find out where lost animals can be recovered.



After disaster animals can become aggressive or defensive. Monitor their behavior.