

ScienceDaily
Your source for the latest research news

SALE TODAY ONLY!!! Take an extra \$100 off all Treadmills and Ellipticals

www.ProForm.com

Feedback - Arts by Google

News Articles Videos Images Books

Health & Medicine Mind & Brain Plants & Animals Earth & Climate Space & Time Matter & Energy Computers & Math Fossils & Ruins

Science News

Share Blog Cite Print Email Bookmark

Lightning Strikes Deadliest In Summer

ScienceDaily (June 29, 2007) — Lightning strikes were responsible for 47 confirmed deaths and 246 confirmed injuries last year, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and summer is the peak season for lightning-related injuries.

See also:

Health & Medicine

- Workplace Health
- Accident and Trauma
- Pain Control

Earth & Climate

- Storms
- Severe Weather
- Weather

Reference

- Thunderstorm
- Burn (injury)
- Dew point
- Storm chasing

The Fourth of July is a particularly deadly time because so many people are outdoors, says Dr. Mary Ann Cooper, professor of emergency medicine and director of the lightning injury research program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Most people seriously underestimate the risk of being struck by lightning and do not know when or where to take shelter.

"Decisions about lightning safety must be made by the individual, but education can help people reduce their chances of being struck by lightning," Cooper said.

"Even though the vast majority of those struck by lightning survive, they

frequently have permanent after effects, which can include chronic pain, brain injury and thought-processing problems," said Cooper, considered by many to be the leading international expert on lightning strike injuries.

Here are some safety tips to help protect yourself from lightning strikes, courtesy of Cooper, NOAA and the National Weather Service.

"When planning outdoor activities, know what shelter is available and where to go if you hear thunder," Cooper said. When you hear thunder, go indoors immediately. Head for a house, school or large building.

"The rule is, 'when thunder roars, go indoors,'" Cooper said. If you can't get indoors, get into a hardtop car, bus or truck. Never go under a tree.

Stay off phones, computers and video games. "Surprisingly, hard-wired phone use is the leading cause of indoor lightning injuries in the United States," Cooper said. Cell phones are quite safe, aside from distracting someone from seeking safety.

Lightning can hurt you even before it begins to rain and can strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain area of a thunderstorm. "Wait 30 minutes after the last crack of thunder or flash of lightning before resuming activities or driving home," Cooper said.

During Lightning Safety Awareness Week, June 24-30, NOAA and the National Weather Service this year are highlighting safety awareness for children, with handouts, posters and outdoor risk-reduction tips.

"If we can teach children to be safe around lightning, we can change behavior forever -- and I can put myself out of a job," said Cooper, who also is an American Meteorological Society fellow and works closely with the National Weather Service in its annual education program.

More information about lightning and lightning safety is available at <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov>.

Adapted from materials provided by University of Illinois at Chicago.

Need to cite this story in your essay, paper, or report? Use one of the following formats:

- APA University of Illinois at Chicago (2007, June 29). Lightning Strikes Deadliest In Summer. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved August 24, 2008, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/06/070627135401.htm>
- MLA



Multiple cloud-to-ground and cloud-to-cloud lightning strokes during night-time. Observed during night-time thunderstorm. (Credit: C. Clark, NOAA Photo Library)

Ads by Google

Advertise here

How I Beat Cholesterol

Free Report: The 23 Cent Life-Saver Heart Surgeons Never Tell You About HealthResources.net

Is You Dumb?

Take a fast and free IQ Test to find out if you are indeed dumb. www.iFreeIQTest.com

"2008 Diet Of The Year"

Amazing Chinese Weight Loss Secret As Seen On CNN, NBC, CBS & Fox News www.Wu-YiSource.com

5 Tips for a Flat Stomach

Stop making these 5 mistakes & you will finally lose your ugly belly. www.StomachFatsUgly.net

The Science of Belly Fat

I'd given up, humiliated by my fat belly, until I found this 1 secret. www.TruthAboutAbs.com

Related Stories

Lightning Experiment May Help Better Protect Airplanes (July 8, 1999) — An experiment aimed at gathering new information about what occurs at ground zero of a lightning strike may lead to more effective lightning protection for airplanes, University of Florida ... > [read more](#)

New Study Indicates Lightning Can Kill Without Leaving A Mark (June 30, 1998) — New findings by a group of Colorado researchers indicates lightning could be the culprit in a number of unexplained fatal heart malfunctions in the outdoors in recent years, including some in the ... > [read more](#)

'Shocking' Research Points To Ways To Protect Technology (Mar. 17, 2004) — Toronto's CN Tower acts as a lightning laboratory, teaching scientists how to protect delicate electronic equipment against high-voltage surges, says a new ... > [read more](#)

New Method Strikes An Improvement In Lightning Predictions (Nov. 8, 2002) — A new lightning index that uses measurements of water vapor in the atmosphere from Global Positioning Systems has improved lead-time for predicting the first lightning strikes from thunderstorms. The ... > [read more](#)

Misconceptions, Lack Of Codes Make Lightning A Threat To Boaters (June 23, 1998) — If this summer is like past summers, Florida will lead the nation in the number of days with lightning activity, and lightning strikes will kill several residents. Yet

Just In:

[How Daughter Is Different From Mother](#)

Science Video News



Lightning: Fact or Fiction?

To study lightning, scientists use rockets connected to the ground by wires. They fire the rockets into clouds, triggering electrical discharges, and. ... > [full story](#)

[Atmospheric Scientists Link Lightning to Ice Particles In Clouds](#)

[Geographers Calculate Atmospheric Effects On Humans](#)

[Meteorologists Can Now Issue Precise Local Excessive-Heat Warnings](#)

[more science videos](#)

Lightning Ringtones



Download to your mobile phone instantly.



www.itunes.net

Arts by Google

Breaking News

... from [NewsDaily.com](#)

[Gene found for rare and deadly childhood cancer](#)

[Tropical storm Julio heads for Baja California](#)

[Fay weakens to depression after drenching Florida](#)

[Typhoon Nuri weakens after hitting Chinese coast](#)

[NY nuclear plant likely a quake risk: study](#)

[more science news](#)

In Other News ...

[First mass U.S. crossing for hydrogen cars completed](#)

[Suicide bomber kills 25 at west Baghdad banquet](#)

[About 70 dead in Kyrgyz plane crash](#)

[Kyrgyz passenger plane crashes, dozens dead](#)

[U.S. forces say they catch two Iraq al Qaeda leaders](#)

[Only 25 survive air Kyrgyz crash: RIA](#)

[Iran will hit back if Israel attacks: Hezbollah](#)

[Iran says designing new nuclear power plant](#)



Ads by Google



1 rule of flat stomach:

Cut down 37 lbs of stomach fat in 3 months by keeping this 1 rule. [Wu-YiSource.com](#)

Track Storms to your Home

Monitor approaching storms to your exact address. Be safe & informed! [PremiumWeather.com](#)

lightning protection

lightning protection allstateslightningprotection.com

Tornado Foosball Table

Guaranteed Lowest Prices on Cyclone Storm, Whirlwind, F5 & T2000 Tables www.GameTables4Less.com

Lightning Protection

Lightning and safety consulting to reduce risk of damage & injury. www.ElectroQuest-LLC.com

Find with keyword(s):

Search

Enter
a

keyword or phrase to search ScienceDaily's archives for related news topics, the latest news stories, reference articles, science videos, images, and books.

Ads by Google

Advertise here

Free Subscriptions

... from ScienceDaily

Get the latest science news with our free email newsletters, updated daily and weekly. Or view hourly updated newsfeeds in your RSS reader:

[Email Newsletters](#)

[RSS Newsfeeds](#)

2008 Ford Escape Hybrid

The most Fuel-Efficient on Earth Up to 34 MPG

[DealerConnection.com](#)

Coffee Exposed

A shocking secret coffee co's don't want you to know

[www.coffeeool.com](#)

"How To Lose Stomach Fat"

Mysterious Secret Melts Belly Fat. As Seen On CNN & Fox News.

[www.FireYourFat.com](#)

Feedback

... we want to hear from you!

Tell us what you think of the new ScienceDaily -- we welcome both positive and negative comments. Have any problems using the site? Questions?

Your Name:

Your Email:

Comments:

Click button to submit feedback:

[About This Site](#) | [Editorial Staff](#) | [Awards & Reviews](#) | [Contribute News](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)
Copyright © 1995-2008 ScienceDaily LLC — All rights reserved — Contact: editor@sciencedaily.com