



Licking County Planning Department  
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## NATIONAL LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK 2011

The Licking County Planning Department and the Licking County Homeland Security/Emergency Management Agency/911 Center, on behalf of the Licking County Commissioners, takes this opportunity to remind everyone of National Lightning Safety Awareness Week during June 19 – 25, 2011.

Summer is the peak season for one of the nation's deadliest weather phenomena— **LIGHTNING**. But don't be fooled, lightning strikes year round. The goal of this week is to help safeguard U.S. residents from lightning. In the United States, an average of 55 people are killed each year by lightning. To date, there have been **4 deaths in 2011.**

**Also, hundreds of people are permanently injured each year.** People struck by lightning suffer from a variety of long-term, debilitating symptoms, including memory loss, attention deficits, sleep disorders, chronic pain, numbness, dizziness, stiffness in joints, irritability, fatigue, weakness, muscle spasms, depression, and more.

Lightning is a serious danger, especially during the summer months. We hope you'll learn more about lightning risks and how to protect yourself, your loved ones, your pets, and your belongings.

Observed the last full week of June, National Lightning Safety Awareness Week not only helps get safety messages out in time for the Fourth of July, but also signals summer as lightning season. Outside is the most dangerous place to be during a lightning or thunderstorm, and more people are outside during the summer. Lightning can strike up to ten miles away from any rainfall.

Lightning accounts for more deaths in a typical year than tornados. The safest place to be during lightning activity is a large enclosed building, not a picnic shelter or shed. The second safest location is an enclosed metal vehicle, car, van, etc., but **not** a convertible, bike, ATV, or other topless or other soft top vehicle. If caught outdoors with no shelter is nearby, stay away from tall trees. If there is no shelter, crouch in the open, keeping twice as far away from a tree as it is tall."

Lightning safety tips for inside the home include:

- Avoid contact with corded phones.
- Avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords. If you plan to unplug any electronic equipment, do so well before the storm arrives.
- Avoid contact with plumbing. Do not wash your hands; do not take a shower; do not wash dishes; and do not do laundry.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.

For more information on lightning safety, visit: [www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov) or [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov/ThunderstormsAndLightningSafety.aspx](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov/ThunderstormsAndLightningSafety.aspx).

For sample preparedness plans and emergency checklists, visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

**Remember, When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors !!!**