

**Larry S. Helms**  
& Associates  
INSURANCE SERVICES

**704.893.2793**  
[www.LarryHelms.com](http://www.LarryHelms.com)

July 2019

## Lightning - Summer Long Fireworks!



Lightning kills as many as 2,000 people worldwide every year - about 300 in the United States. Hundreds more people are struck but survive, usually with lingering and debilitating symptoms.

The odds of being struck by lightning in a given year are about 1 in 500,000. Some higher risks apply for certain areas of the country.

### Lightning - FAQs

**Who gets struck more often?** Men are five times more likely to be struck. And young adults in the 15-35 age range who spend a lot of time outdoors with work or recreational activities.

**What happens when a person is struck by lightning?** About 10% of the people struck by lightning die. Injuries include: trauma, neurological issues, muscle and eye injuries, and skin lesions/burns. Most are temporary.

**How can I help if someone near me gets struck by lightning?** CALL 911! Administer basic first aid and do whatever the 911 operator tells you to do. Lightning strike victims are not electrified - you can touch them without fear.



### Lightning MYTHS

- Stay off corded phones.
- Shut off computers and other electronic equipment.
- Stay out of showers/tubs and away from plumbing or water.
- Stay away from windows and doors.
- Go inside or find safe shelter.

**What is safe shelter?** Shelter that is enclosed: buildings with walls and a roof, hard-top vehicles with the windows rolled up.

**If I'm caught outside without shelter, do I lay down and become flat to the ground like you do in a tornado?** No. Do not lay down - crouch or squat with as little of your body touching the ground as possible. Lightning travels along the surface of the ground.

**Is it true lightning never strikes the same place twice?** No. Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly.

**How long after a storm can I go back to what I was doing?** Wait about 30 minutes after you see the last lightning flash or hear thunder. Victims have been struck as much as 10 miles away.

Combined information sources: cdc.gov, nationalgeographic.com

Lightning only strikes the tallest objects.

Waiting under a tree is better than no shelter at all.

You're safe if you don't see rain clouds.

A car's rubber tires will protect you.

If you're outside, lie flat on the ground.

You'll be electrocuted if you touch a lightning strike victim.

Wearing metal attracts lightning.

A house will always keep you safe from being struck by lightning.

Surge suppressors can protect a home from lightning.

Read the answers for yourself: [www.iii.org/article/lightning-safety-10-myths-and-the-facts](http://www.iii.org/article/lightning-safety-10-myths-and-the-facts).

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## Do you have questions about your insurance?

### Do you have the insurance you need?

Have you had any life changes that might affect your insurance coverage?

**Call us today! We'll look at what you have and answer your questions.**

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