

Lightning Safety

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PCOEM Comm General Meeting
24 July 2014**

- ***Working outside during a thunderstorm can be dangerous***
 - ***Test your level of understanding – Myth vs. Reality***

Myth: Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

Fact: Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly, especially if it's a tall, pointy, isolated object. The Empire State Building is hit nearly 100 times a year

Myth: If it's not raining or there are no clouds overhead, you're safe from lightning.

Fact: Lightning often strikes more than three miles from the center of the thunderstorm, far outside the rain or thunderstorm cloud. "Bolts from the blue" can strike 10-15 miles from the thunderstorm.

Myth: Rubber tires on a car protect you from lightning by insulating you from the ground.

Fact: Most cars are safe from lightning, but it is the metal roof and metal sides that protect you, NOT the rubber tires. Remember, convertibles, motorcycles, bicycles, open-shelled outdoor recreational vehicles and cars with fiberglass shells offer no protection from lightning. When lightning strikes a vehicle, it goes through the metal frame to ground. Don't lean on doors during a thunderstorm.

Myth: If outside in a thunderstorm, you should seek shelter under a tree to stay dry.

Fact: Standing beneath a tree *is the second leading cause of lightning casualties*. Better to get wet than fried!

Myth: If trapped outside in a thunderstorm, it's safest to lie flat on the ground.

Fact: Lying flat on the ground increases your chance of being electrocuted by potentially deadly ground current. If you are caught outside, keep moving toward a safe shelter, such as a dwelling or vehicle.

Myth: If you are in a house, you are 100% safe from lightning.

Fact: A house is a safe place to be during a thunderstorm as long as you avoid anything that conducts electricity. This means avoiding corded phones, staying away from electrical appliances, wires, TV cables, computers, plumbing, metal doors and windows.