

Lightning Safety Tips

"If you can see it (lightning), flee it."

"If you can hear it (thunder), clear it."

Lightning Facts

- Seventy percent of all lightning strikes occur in the mid-afternoon hours.
- A natural instinct is to take shelter under a tree, which is the worst thing you can do. Of all lightning strikes, 25 percent of all people killed are standing under a tree when they get hit. This is because the positive charges on the ground shoot up to meet negative charges in the thundercloud. They take the quickest route up, which is usually a tree.
- About 100 people are killed every year in the United States by lightning.
- Getting struck by lightning can pack a punch. A bolt can contain up to 100,000 volts of electricity.

Dublin City Council

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Michael H. Keenan

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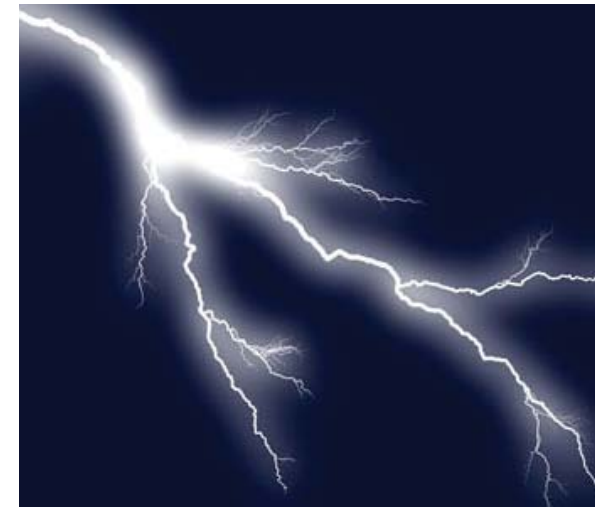
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City of Dublin Lightning Detection System



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Lightning Detection System (LDS)

The City of Dublin purchased and installed a Lightning Detection System (LDS) to provide Dublin park patrons with information regarding the presence of potentially dangerous electrical storms in the general areas around the parks. Dublin was the first municipality in Ohio to install such a detection system in its parks.

The LDS will detect and warn of cloud-to-ground lightning strikes within 10 to 30 miles of the Dublin Justice Center. When a cloud-to-ground lightning strike is detected within this range, the alert system will sound one audible even-toned alarm for approximately 15 seconds. When a period of 15 minutes passes with absolutely no cloud-to-ground lightning strikes occurring within range, a second audible high-low-toned alarm will sound for approximately 15 seconds.

This system is designed to alert patrons who are already on park property of potentially dangerous electrical storms. It does not sound audible alarms in increments of time. The system only sounds once at the first lightning detection and once signaling the area has been clear of lightning for 15 minutes.

The LDS is programmed to operate yearly:

- 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Seven days a week
- March 15 to Nov. 10

The LDS is made up of two separate systems. The physical lightning detection device is on the roof of the Dublin Justice Center (6565 Commerce Parkway) and the data processing device is in the 911 Communications Center inside the building. These two components detect lightning and communicate the data to transmitters throughout the City.

LDS alarms are located at:

- Dublin Community Pools (North and South)
- Avery Park north concession stand
- Avery Park south restrooms
- Darree Fields north parking lot
- Darree Fields south parking lot
- Emerald Fields

The system is tested by the City of Dublin every February and again every second Tuesday of each month from March through November. The City of Dublin Parks & Open Space department is responsible for all maintenance and repair of the LDS.



Safe locations during lightning storms

No place is absolutely safe from lightning; however, some places are safer than others. Large enclosed structures (substantially constructed buildings) tend to be much safer than smaller or open structures. The risk for lightning injury depends on whether the structure incorporates lightning protection, construction materials used and the size of the structure. In general, fully enclosed metal vehicles such as cars, trucks, buses, vans, fully enclosed farm vehicles, etc. with the windows rolled up provide good shelter from lightning. Avoid contact with metal or conducting surfaces outside or inside the vehicle.

Locations to Avoid

Avoid high places, open fields, isolated trees, unprotected gazebos, rain or picnic shelters, baseball dugouts, communications towers, flagpoles, light poles, bleachers (metal or wood), metal fences, convertibles, golf carts, and water.

Safety Guidelines for Individuals

Generally speaking, if you can see lightning and/or hear thunder you are already at risk. Louder or more frequent thunder indicates lightning activity is approaching, increasing the risk for lightning injury or death. If the time delay between seeing the flash (lightning) and hearing the bang (thunder) is less than 30 seconds, the individual should be indoors or seek a safer location.

Be aware that this method of ranging has severe limitations, in part due to the difficulty of associating the proper thunder to the corresponding flash. High winds, rainfall, and cloud cover often act as precursors to actual cloud-to-ground strikes, notifying individuals to take action. Many lightning casualties occur in the beginning, as the storm approaches, because people ignore these precursors. Also, many lightning casualties occur after the perceived threat has passed.

Generally, the lightning threat diminishes with time after the last sound of thunder, but may persist for more than 30 minutes. When thunderstorms are in the area but not overhead, the lightning threat can exist even when it is sunny, not raining, or when clear sky is visible.

Pay attention to the City of Dublin's LDS; however, do not let this information override good common sense.