



# LIGHTNING



## Protect Your Home and Family

**Lightning is the third greatest storm-related killer in the United States and causes nearly \$1 billion in damages each year.**

Over the past 10 years, on average, lightning has directly killed about 37 people per year in the U.S. and indirectly killed about a dozen more due to fires caused by lightning. There is no safe place outside when a thunderstorm is in the area. If you hear thunder, you need to get inside a safe place immediately, avoid contact with plumbing and anything plugged into an electrical outlet, stay off corded phones, and stay away from windows and doors. Remain there for 30 minutes after the last lightning or thunder. Remember...

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

Each year, lightning causes about:

- 25,000 total fires
- 4,400 home structure fires
- 1,800 non-home structure fires
- 12 fire-related deaths

Each year, lightning is responsible for approximately:

- 37 direct deaths
- 300 injuries
- 200,000 insurance claims
- \$1 billion in damages

### **IF YOUR HOME IS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING**

- Evacuate your home immediately if you see fire or smoke and call 911
- Call your local fire department and, if possible, have them check for hot spots in your walls with thermal imaging equipment
- Make sure all smoke detectors are powered and operating properly
- If needed, have a licensed electrician check the wiring in your home

**You may wish to contact a certified lightning protection specialist for a home lightning protection system survey.**

#### **For more information**

**Lightning and Lightning Safety**

<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov>

**Lightning Fires**

<http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files//PDF/OS.lightning.pdf>

**Insurance Losses Due To Lightning**

[http://www.iii.org/facts\\_statistics/lightning.html](http://www.iii.org/facts_statistics/lightning.html)

**Lightning Protection For Your Home**

<http://www.lightning.org>