



**just in case arizona**

## **Lightning**

### **A Few Facts:**

- As clouds develop, small bits in the clouds become charged with electricity. When the charges overflow, they make a lightning flash.
- Lightning may go from one part of a cloud to another, from cloud to cloud or from a cloud to the earth.
- Lightning is attracted to metal and water.
- Lightning takes the shortest path and therefore tends to strike the highest or tallest objects. Don't stand near trees or tall poles.
- Thunder and lightning occur together. It seems like lightning is first because light moves faster than sound.
- When you see lightning, count the seconds until you hear thunders. If you count 5 seconds, then the lightning was about a mile away.
- It is safer to be inside a car than it is to be outside. The steel frame of a hard-topped car provides increased protection from lightning, provided you are not touching metal.

### **30/30 Lightning Safety Rule**

Go indoors if, after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.

### **Vocabulary:**

- **Thunderstorm:** a storm with thunder and lightning
- **Lightning:** a flash of light that results from a release of electricity between clouds or a cloud and the ground
- **Thunder:** the sound that follows a flash of lightning

### **References:**

- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**
- **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**
- **Merriam-Webster Word Central**

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