BEING OUTSIDE IN A THUNDERSTORM

There is no safe place outside in a thunderstorm. Plan ahead to avoid this dangerous situation!

If you are outside and hear thunder, then get inside a substantial building or hard-topped metal vehicle as fast as you can. Remember – there is no substitute for getting to a safe place.

• Avoid the rim trail, viewpoints, and other open areas.
• Do not be the tallest object in the area.
• Stay away from isolated tall trees.

If someone is injured or unresponsive CALL 9-1-1. Provide the most accurate location information you can.

If you do not have cell phone communications then send 2 people for help with as much information about the incident as possible.

The information in this brochure was derived from the NOAA National Weather Service Lightning Safety brochure and the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) Lightning Risk Management brochure and was coordinated with the NWS and NOLS.

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

There is no safe place outside during a thunderstorm.
The final stage of development is when anvil-shaped clouds, known as “cumulonimbus” form. These clouds are higher and wider, and are associated with lightning.

HOW LIGHTNING KILLS
Lightning can kill or injure a person by direct strike, ground current, side flash, and conduction. Although not as common as the other ways, a person struck directly by lightning becomes a part of the main lightning discharge channel. Most often, direct strikes occur to victims who are in open areas. More than 50% of the fatalities and injuries are due to the ground current. With the ground current, the lightning enters the body at the contact point closest to the lightning strike, travels through the cardiovascular and/or nervous systems, and exits the body at the contact point farthest from the lightning. A side flash occurs when lightning strikes a taller object near the victim and a portion of the current jumps from the taller object to the victim. Conduction occurs when the victim is in direct contact with the object struck by lightning or in contact with a long conductor, such as a wire fence.

When Thunder Roars..... Go Indoors!

For more information visit http://www.nps.gov/brca/planyourvisit/lightning-safety.htm

When Thunder Roars..... Go Indoors!

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