



The East Side Flyer

www.eastsidefire.com

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LIGHTNING

The Facts

- Lightning strikes about 25 million times per year
- Most strikes occur during summer
- Lightning can reach temperatures around 50,000 degrees

Safety tips

- NO PLACE outside is safe during a thunderstorm
- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike
- If outside, seek shelter in a substantial building with electricity or plumbing – or an enclosed metal-topped vehicle with windows up
- Stay in the safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you quit hearing thunder
- If caught outdoors with no safe shelter nearby, immediately vacate hills, mountain ridges or peaks; never lie on the ground; never shelter under an isolated tree; get away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water; don't be the tallest object in the area; crouch or squat low to the ground with as little of your body touching the ground.
- If indoors, avoid appliances that you have put in direct contact with electricity, such as corded phones and computers; avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets; stay away from windows, doors, porches and decks



If someone is struck by lightning

- For those who die from a lightning strike, cardiac arrest is the immediate cause of death
- Lightning strike victims DO NOT carry an electric charge and may need immediate first aid
- Shout for help – **Call 911**
- Begin CPR if warranted and you are trained; use an AED, if available
- Don't be a victim – if possible, move the victim to a safer place. Lightning CAN strike twice

The devastating fires in California are stark reminders of the possibility of fires in our own area. Here are valuable guidelines from www.ready.gov/wildfires

Prepare NOW

- Sign up for Alert!Kootenai, our county's emergency alert system which is powered by Everbridge. It is a free service and you can choose how you'd like to be notified. Sign up today at www.kcgov.alertkootenai
- Determine an evacuation route and find several ways to leave the area
- Gather emergency supplies, including N95 respirator masks that filter out harmful particles in the air. These masks can be found at Lowe's, Home Depot and through Amazon. Include medications and consider the special needs of each family member. Don't forget the needs of pets and have a plan to relocate livestock.
- Keep important documents in a fireproof safe or relocate to a safe deposit box
- Create a fire-resistant zone that is free of leaves, debris, or flammable materials for at least 30 feet from your home. Find an outdoor water source with a hose that can reach any area of your property.



Survive DURING

- Evacuate immediately if told to do so by authorities
- If trapped, call 911 and give your location. Recognize that emergency response could be delayed. Turn exterior lights on to help rescuers find you.
- Wear an N95 mask to protect your lungs
- Listen to your local emergency alert system for important information and updates
- If you are not instructed to evacuate, stay indoors or go to a community center that may have better air quality

Be Safe AFTER

- Do not return to your home until authorities say it is safe to do so
- Avoid hot ash, charred trees, smoldering debris, and live embers. The ground may contain heat pockets that can spark another fire.
- Use text messages or social media to let friends and family know you are safe. Phone systems may be overloaded. Make calls only in an emergency.
- Wear an N95 respirator mask when outdoors and wet down debris to minimize breathing dust particles.

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