



# Lightning Safety and Home Protection



## **Family Safety**

Increase personal safety and reduce your risk of lightning injury by following these essential tips.

### ***Before the Storm***

- Stay alert and listen carefully for the first signs of lightning or thunder. Remember, “When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!”
- Seek shelter - lightning often strikes before the rain begins, so don’t wait for the rain to start before leaving.

### ***If you are Outdoors***

- Immediately leave elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges, or peaks.
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Never shelter under an isolated tree.
- Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter.
- Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity like wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.

### ***If you are Indoors***

- Avoid water and stay away from doors and windows.
- Do not use the landline telephones or headsets.
- Turn off, unplug and stay away from appliances, computers, power tools and televisions set as lightning may strike exterior electric and phone lines and generate shocks to inside equipment.

### ***After the Storm***

- Don’t resume activities until at least 30 minutes after the last lightning strike or thunderclap.
- Use first aid procedures and call 9-1-1 immediately if anyone is injured.
- Lightning victims do not carry an electrical charge, so it is safe to administer medical treatment.



# Lightning Safety and Home Protection



## **Home Protection**

Electrical strikes and surges from lightning can destroy electronic devices and cause destructive fires in your home. However, damage can be reduced or even prevented by installing a system of lightning or surge protection using point-of-use devices, a whole house surge device, or a lightning protection system.

## ***Surge Protective Devices (SPD)***

- These devices protect electronic and electrical appliances from all but the most severe electrical surges or direct strikes.
- SPD's should be installed at all items to be protected, and an excellent electrical grounding system is essential.
- Ordinary power strips do not necessarily provide surge protection, so read the descriptors carefully.
- Check your SPD to ensure it is a “transient voltage surge suppressor” and that it meets Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Safety Standard 1449.

## ***Whole-House Surge Protection***

- A whole-house surge protection system can be installed on the electric meter or the electrical panel to help protect the appliances and electronic equipment in your home, such as computers, TVs, and DVD players.
- Contact your local electric company for installation information. If your utility company doesn't offer the service, a qualified electrician can install this device at your electrical panel.

## ***Lightning Protection Systems***

- These systems provide a direct path for lightning to follow to the ground by rerouting electrical surge away from the interior of your home and its wiring.
- Consult a qualified contractor (UL-listed/LPI-certified or qualified electrician) for installation.
- Remember, no lightning protection device or system can guarantee 100% damage prevention from a direct lightning strike or lightning that enters through unprotected telephone, cable, or power lines to the house. However, taking steps today can help you avoid dangerous and expensive damage to your home.