

FORGET THE MYTHS, LEARN THE FACTS!

Lightning Safety Awareness Week is a perfect time to separate fact from fallacy about lightning safety and lightning protection.

**Lightning
Safety
Awareness
Week**

June 23-29

FACT OR FALLACY:

Rubber tires and rubber-soled shoes can protect you from being struck by lightning.

FALLACY! Rubber tires and rubber soles provide NO protection from lightning. When lightning strikes a vehicle, the steel shell and frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal. (Lightning's electricity travels along the metal shell and frame and into the ground.)

 [More enlightenment here](#)

FACT OR FALLACY:

Metal attracts lightning and increases your chances of being struck, so you shouldn't wear metal or hold a cell phone in a thunderstorm.

FALLACY! While metal conducts lightning's electricity, it doesn't attract it. The presence of metal makes no difference as to where lightning strikes. People are struck by being in the WRONG place at the WRONG time—ANYWHERE outside is unsafe during a thunderstorm!

 [More enlightenment here](#)

FACT OR FALLACY:

Lightning is the weather hazard that affects most people, most of the time, in most areas of the U.S.

FACT! The earth experiences 100 lightning flashes per second and the U.S. alone has more than 40 million lightning strikes each year. Thunderstorms occur in every state in the nation, putting people and structures at risk.

 [More enlightenment here](#)

FACT OR FALLACY:

Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

FALLACY! Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly and structures like the Empire State Building & Willis (Sears) Tower are zapped numerous times a year.

 [More enlightenment here](#)



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FACT OR FALLACY:

The temperature of lightning is hotter than the surface of the sun.

FACT! The temperature of lightning is about 53,500 degrees F (about 30,000 Kelvin), while the temperature of the sun is about 10,300 degrees F (about 6,000 Kelvin).

 [More enlightenment here](#)

for lightning which can degrade and damage multiple electronic systems and connected equipment. With the growth of sustainable energy technology and eco-friendly building prompting upgrades and improvements to the electrical infrastructure of today's homes and buildings, LPS is increasingly relevant and important.

 [More enlightenment here](#)

FACT OR FALLACY:

Metal tents provide adequate safe shelters during thunderstorms.

FALLACY! A tent's metal frame is not designed to carry the lightning current safely to ground. While many tents are equipped with aluminum poles which resemble blunt-head lightning rods, it's important to emphasize that these poles do NOT provide any time of lightning protection or lightning safety for occupants. At the sound of thunder, it is advisable to leave a tent and seek the safety of a building or vehicle to avoid being trapped in a dangerous situation.

 [More enlightenment here](#)

FACT OR FALLACY:

A whole-house surge arrester or SPD can provide adequate protection against lightning to safeguard an entire structure from a lightning fire.

FALLACY! Surge protection is only ONE element of a complete lightning protection system. A single bolt of lightning can generate up to 200 kA of electrical energy, spelling disastrous consequences for an unprotected structure. No surge protection device or "whole-house" arrester alone can protect a structure from a direct strike, which is why a grounding network for lightning (lightning protection system) must be implemented along with surge protection to provide a safe, conductive path to discharge lightning's electricity.

 [More enlightenment here](#)

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FACT OR FALLACY:

Lightning rods and protection systems are outdated and a thing of the past.

FALLACY! Lightning protection systems (LPS) are installed more today than ever before. Smart structures with automation and interconnected systems rely on sophisticated energy collection methods that can be at special risk



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FACT OR FALLACY:

Lightning protection systems are simple and easy to install yourself.

FALLACY! Lightning protection system design and installation is complex and not a do-it-yourself project. Installation is not typically within the scope of expertise held by general contractors, roofers or even electricians—which is why the work is typically subcontracted out to specialists. LPI-certified experts who specialize in lightning protection and utilize UL-listed components and equipment should be hired to design and install these systems to make sure materials and methods comply with NFPA 780, National Safety Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems.

 [More enlightenment here](#)

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FACT OR FALLACY:

Leon the Lightning Lion's slogan, "When thunder roars, go indoors!" is practical safety advice that is helping to reduce lightning deaths and injuries.

FACT! Most lightning victims are merely steps away from a safe place (enclosed building or car) when they are struck by lightning. The annual [Lightning Safety Awareness Week](#) campaign and its mascot, Leon, are providing education about the lightning risk and helping to reduce apathy about a weather hazard that previously killed more people in the U.S. than hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes combined!

 [More enlightenment here](#)

