

Ready PA Monthly - June 2025

# When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

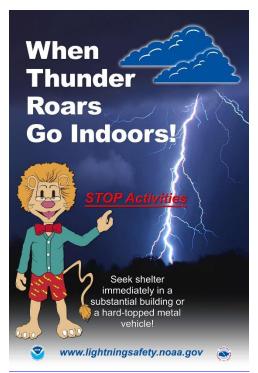
Did you know that over 140 people in Pennsylvania have died from lightning strikes since 1959? The most recent happened in April 2023.

Thunderstorms are common in Pennsylvania—and that means lightning is, too. Whether you're inside or outside, it's important to know how to stay safe.

# $\cancel{P}$ 5 Outdoor Lightning Safety Tips

If a storm is coming and you're outside:

 Get to Safety Fast: Go indoors or into a hardtopped car right away.



- Avoid Tall Objects: Stay away from trees, poles, and towers.
- Stay Out of the Water: Don't swim, fish, or hang out near rivers, lakes or pools.
- Crouch Down if You Must: If you can't get inside, crouch low don't lie down.
- Spread Out: If you're in a group, don't cluster together.

### 5 Indoor Lightning Safety Tips

Even indoors, you need to take precautions:

- Don't Use Plumbing: Avoid sinks, tubs, and showers—lightning can travel through pipes.
- Unplug Electronics: Stay off wired devices during storms.

- Avoid Corded Phones: Use cell phones instead.
- Keep Away from Windows & Doors: Lightning can strike nearby.
- Avoid Concrete Walls & Floors: Metal bars in concrete can carry current.

### What to Do If Someone Is Struck by Lightning

- They are safe to touch.
- Call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Move to a safe place, and if trained, start CPR and use an AED if available.
- Don't stand in water while using an AED.

ightarrow Learn more about lightning safety by visiting the National Weather Service <u>here</u>.

# Ignite Fun, Not Fires. Firework Safety Starts with You

Fireworks are a highlight of summer fun—from neighborhood celebrations to family cookouts. But when not used properly, they can turn fun into danger in seconds.

Each year, thousands of people are injured by fireworks, and the damage doesn't stop there. In

2023, nearly 10,000 people were treated in emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries. One-third of those injured were children under 15. Fires caused by fireworks also result in millions of dollars in property damage across the country every year. The good news? Most fireworks accidents are preventable when we take simple safety steps.

### Fireworks Safety Tips

If fireworks are part of your summer celebration, take a moment to review these safety reminders:

- Never use fireworks of any kind after consuming alcohol, certain over-the-counter medications (read the label) or illegal drugs. Impaired judgment increases risk.
- Keep children at a safe distance—even sparklers can burn at 2,000°F.
- Light fireworks outside only, in a clear area away from buildings, trees, and people.
- Never hold fireworks in your hand or lean over them while lighting.



- Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes.
- Have a water source nearby, such as a bucket, hose, or extinguisher.
- Soak used fireworks in water before throwing them in the trash.
- Keep pets indoors and play music or the TV to reduce stress.
- Don't use illegal fireworks—it's unsafe and against the law.

### 🔋 What's Legal in Pennsylvania?

In Pennsylvania, adults age 18 and older can legally buy consumer-grade fireworks like bottle rockets, Roman candles, and firecrackers. But using them comes with important rules.

Fireworks **cannot** be used:

- On public or private property without permission
- Near or inside vehicles or buildings
- While under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Aimed at people
- Within 150 feet of any building or vehicle—even your own

Violating these laws can result in a fine of up to \$500 for a first offense.

### **A** Fireworks Are Not Allowed on Public Lands

If you're heading to a state park or forest this summer, leave the fireworks at home. Fireworks are strictly prohibited on all public lands in Pennsylvania.

Nearly all wildfires in the state are started by people, and dry conditions make fireworks especially risky. Officials urge visitors to help protect parks, forests, and wildlife by celebrating responsibly.

### Be Part of the Solution

You can help keep your community safe by sharing these tips with others—or by stepping up to volunteer with your local fire department. It's a great way to support your neighbors and first responders.

♀ Learn more: <u>Visit the OSFC Website</u>.

## Enjoy a Safe & Fun-Filled Summer

Summer is all about sunshine, backyard fun, and spending time outdoors with family and friends. Whether you're grilling dinner, enjoying a fire pit, or relaxing by the pool, it's important to keep safety in mind. A few simple



precautions can help prevent injuries, fires, and accidents—so you can focus on the fun.

### **Grilling & Fire Pit Safety**

Place grills and fire pits at least 10 feet from anything that can burn. Never leave them unattended, and fully put out flames before going inside.

### **Outdoor Electrical Safety**

Check cords and outlets before use. Replace damaged ones, and only use outdoor-rated equipment. Keep everything dry and covered.

#### Pool & Water Safety

Always stay close when kids or new swimmers are in or near water. Pools should be fenced with a self-latching gate to prevent unsupervised access.

### **Yard Fire Prevention**

Clear out dry leaves, branches, and debris. Trim back trees near your home and power lines to lower fire risk.

### **Be Prepared for Emergencies**

Test smoke alarms monthly. Practice your fire escape plan and make sure everyone knows how to use a fire extinguisher.

By putting safety first this summer, you'll protect your loved ones, your home—and help ensure everyone enjoys the season to the fullest.

## Remember! Prepare Your Pets

 $\mathfrak{B}_{\mathfrak{B}}$  June is Pet Preparedness Month!

Pets are family, too! Let's make sure they're safe during an emergency.

Build a Pet Emergency Kit Include:

- Comfort items: blanket or toys
- Litter, litter box, and bags
- Pet first aid items (bandages, antiseptic, tweezers)
- Litter, litter box, and waste bags

Make Sure They Can Be Identified

- Keep ID tags updated
- Consider microchipping your pets

# June is PET PREPAREDNESSS MONTH



- Plan for Evacuation
- Know where to go that's pet-friendly
- Keep leashes, carriers, and crates ready to go
- Practice getting pets into carriers so it's less stressful

🖀 Have a Backup Plan

- Arrange for a neighbor or friend to help if you're not home
- Share your contact info and pet care details

Stay Informed

- Sign up for local alerts to stay updated in real time
- Keep a list of emergency contacts like your vet and local shelters

∠ Take these small steps now—your pets are counting on you!

JUNE TIP SHEET: LIGHTNING SAFETY

### JUNE SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

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