

OTHER SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS THUNDERSTORMS, LIGHTNING, FLOODING.

What should I know about thunderstorms?

- Thunderstorms along the coastal region of Florida average 80 to 90 days per year.
- Florida thunderstorm can produce four or more inches of rain in less than an hour in one location
- Lightning, tornadoes, downbursts, hail and flooding are all dangerous by-products of thunderstorms.

It is necessary to monitor the NOAA weather radio stations during the warm thunderstorm season and plan work and activities around any threatening weather conditions.

What should I do during a thunderstorm?

- GO TO A SMALL INTERIOR ROOM on the lowest floor of the building in a severe thunderstorm. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- AVOID windows.
- AVOID driving into severe thunderstorms. Pull off the road.

What should I know about lightning?

- Florida is the most lightning prone area in the United States.
- Lightning kills more people annually than all other weather hazards combined.
- Lightning strikes usually occur close to the rain area and are negatively charged.
- The most dangerous lightning is the positively charged ground strike that can occur many miles from the rain area where people are not aware of the lightning danger.

What should I do when I see lightning?

- SEEK SHELTER in a fully enclosed building or car.
- STAY AWAY from doors, windows and electrical appliances.
- STAY OFF the phone.
- AVOID water, high ground, open spaces, metal objects and contact with other people, if outdoors.

OBSERVE THE 30-30 Rule

30 SECONDS Count the seconds between seeing the lightning and hearing the thunder. If the time is 30 seconds or less then the lightning is close enough to be a threat. **Seek shelter immediately!**

30 MINUTES After seeing the last lightning flash wait 30 minutes before leaving the shelter. Fifty percent of the lightning deaths occur after the storm has passed.

What should I know about outdoor flooding?

- Urban flash floods often occur in less than one hour.
- Due to the relatively flat terrain across Florida, it is much more difficult to drain accumulated water.
- In flood areas, it is difficult to judge water depth.
- Water only inches deep can be next to water that is several feet deep.
- As little as one foot of water can move most cars off the road. Just six inches of fast-moving water can sweep a person off his or her feet.

What should I do if I encounter flooding?

- BE AWARE of streams, drainage canals and areas known to flood.
- DO NOT drive through the water if you cannot see the road or its line markings.
- DO NOT allow children to play in flooded areas.
- STAY AWAY from downed power lines.

Contact EH&S at 561-297-3129 or e-mail at ehs@fau.edu with any comments or concerns about hurricanes, tornadoes or other severe weather conditions or assistance in developing your specific plan.