

# Summary of 2024 Fatal Lightning Incidents

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During 2024, the National Lightning Safety Council documented 12 lightning fatalities in the United States. The 12 fatalities were a result of 12 separate incidents and occurred on 12 different days.

Fatalities occurred in 7 states. Florida led the nation with 5 fatalities followed by Texas with 2 fatalities. The remaining lightning deaths occurred in Colorado, New Jersey, Missouri, Alabama, and Utah.

As is typically the case, the majority of deaths were men (10 of 12). Ages of the victims ranged from 7 to 73. Ten of the deaths occurred in the period of May through August, with June having the most (4). Nine of the deaths occurred during the weekend period from Friday through Sunday.

Leisure-related activities led to 9 of the 12 deaths with 3 of those related to water activities, including fishing(1), swimming(1), and beach activities (1). The other leisure-related fatal activities that led to deaths were walking, running, attending a rodeo, going to a flea market, a family gathering, and just “hanging out.”

Work-related activities (branding cattle) led to 1 fatality.

The remaining 2 fatalities were attributed to the victims’ normal daily routine. They included biking home from school (1) and putting a tarp over a car (1).

Detailed information on the 2025 lightning fatalities, as well as information on all fatalities from 2006 through 2024, is available from the National Lightning Safety Council “Fatalities” webpage.

<http://lightningsafetycouncil.org/LSC-LightningFatalities.html>

These incidents underscore the need to seek shelter early, well before the rain arrives. If you wait until it starts raining, you're putting your life in jeopardy. Lightning can strike 10-miles from the rain area in a thunderstorm. If you can hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance of the storm and need to get to a safe place immediately.

## The National Lightning Safety Council recommends:

- Listen to the forecast and plan activities to avoid the lightning threat.
- If thunderstorms are predicted, consider cancelling or postponing outdoor activities, especially if they wouldn’t be able to get to a safe place quickly.
- While outdoors, monitor weather conditions.
- If the sky looks threatening or you hear thunder, go to a safe place immediately. Don’t ignore any signs of a developing or approaching storm.
- Remain inside the safe place for 30 minutes after the last thunder.

**When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!**