

## Mecklenburg County ARES®

### Thunderstorms

#### Before lightning strikes...

- Keep an eye on the sky. Look for darkening skies, flashes of light, or increasing wind. Listen for the sound of thunder. Thunderstorm activity in our region starts when the daytime temperature reaches about 70 degrees and the potential lasts well into late autumn.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning. Go to a safe shelter immediately.
- Listen to your local repeaters for NOAA Weather Radio announcements and SKYWARN alerts or to commercial radio and television for the latest weather bulletins. Many of our local news sites have radar that can give you up to the minute conditions in our area.
- Charlotte Regional SKYWARN activation occurs on the 145.230 repeater. The Charlotte Regional SKYWARN website is <http://charlotteskywarn.com/>.
- Important NOAA Weather alerts can be heard on the 146.940 repeater and our local Charlotte NOAA Weather frequency is 162.475.

#### When a storm approaches...

- Find shelter in a building or car. Keep car windows closed and avoid convertibles.
- Telephone lines, electric lines and metal pipes can conduct lightning. Unplug appliances. Avoid using the land line or any electrical appliances. (Leaving electric lights on, however, does not increase the chances of your home being struck by lightning.)
- Avoid taking a bath or shower, or running water for any purpose during a thunderstorm.
- Turn off the air conditioner. Power surges from lightning can overload the compressor, resulting in a costly repair job!
- Draw blinds and shades over windows. If windows break due to objects blown by the wind, the shades will help prevent glass from shattering into your home and injuring you or your family.

#### Protecting yourself outside...

- If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees. Larger trees are more prone to be struck by lightning.
- If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter immediately!
- If you are caught out in the open, go to a low-lying, open place away from trees, poles, or metal objects. Make sure the place you pick is not subject to flooding.
- Be a very small target! Squat low to the ground. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible.
- Do not lie flat on the ground--this will make you a larger target!

After the storm passes...

- Stay away from storm-damaged areas, downed power lines should always be considered hazardous.
- Avoid areas which are flooded or could be prone to flash flooding.
- Listen to the radio or television for information and instructions.

If someone is struck by lightning...

- People struck by lightning carry no electrical charge and can be handled safely.
- Call for help. Get someone to dial 9-1-1.
- The injured person has received an electrical shock and may be burned, both where they were struck and where the electricity left their body. Check for burns in both places. Being struck by lightning can also cause nervous system damage, broken bones, and loss of hearing or eyesight.
- Give first aid. If breathing has stopped, a trained person should begin rescue breathing. If the heart has stopped beating, a trained person should give CPR. If the person has a pulse and is breathing, look and care for other possible injuries. Learn first aid and CPR by taking a Red Cross first aid and CPR course. Contact your local Red Cross chapter for class schedules and fees.<sup>1</sup>

Protecting your Radio Equipment during thunderstorms...

- Install a station ground to divert lightning to earth ground
- Disconnect the antenna connections from your radios to prevent damage.
- Antenna masts and towers should be earth grounded.
- Use an inside antenna or HT during thunderstorms.

Announcement:

Basic and Advanced SKYWARN Spotter Courses

Saturday, April 12th 2014

Salvation Army Headquarters, 501 Archdale Dr, Charlotte NC

Classes will be from 10:00am to 2:00pm

Class size limited to 75, please send an email to N1CRG@outlook.com if you plan to attend.

Both of these courses are FREE and an Amateur License is not required to attend.

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