

Protection from Severe Weather

Editor's note: Our Tailgate Training Tip Sheets are [available in Spanish at www.gemplers.com](http://www.gemplers.com).

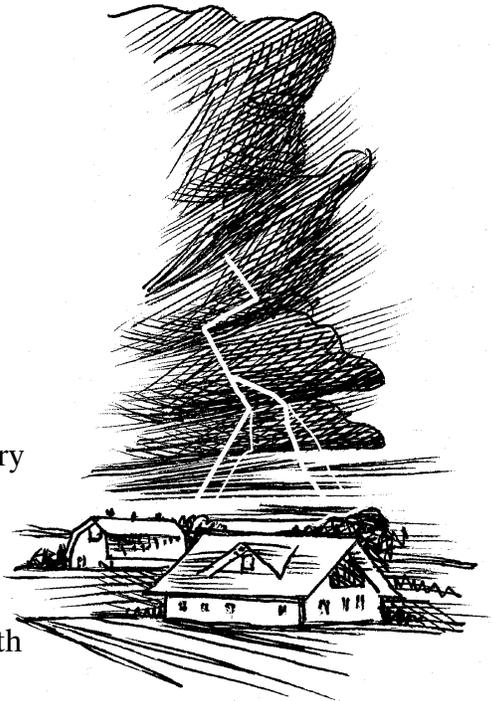
KEY POINTS:

- Seek shelter in a large building during storms.
- Stay away from tractors, wire fences and metal pipes.
- Get immediate medical help if a co-worker is struck by lightning.

Note to trainer: Follow this script or use it to help guide you through a 10- to 15-minute training session for your ag/hort workers. You may photocopy this sheet for your employees' personal use. However, it may not be published or sold.

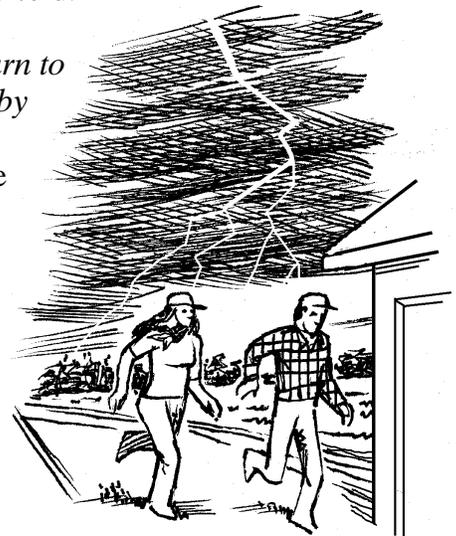
Stormy weather can be hazardous

- High winds, heavy rains, lightning and hail can cause serious injury to people, as well as to plants and crops.
- Tornadoes and hurricanes are just two examples of severe weather conditions that can cause serious harm. Others include:
 - heavy rains, resulting in flooding
 - lightning, which can result in fires, severe burns, and even death
 - strong winds, which can result in flying debris and downed electrical power lines



Protect yourself during severe weather

1. Immediately alert your supervisor if the sky turns dark or the weather appears threatening. Your supervisor will give you instructions on where to seek shelter. Don't return to your job site until you are told.
Note to trainer: Tell employees where to seek shelter during severe weather. A large building is the best option. Don't let employees return to their jobs until you have confirmed that weather conditions are safe by listening to a [weather alert radio](#) or a commercial radio station.
2. If you are in an open field when the weather turns severe and there is no shelter nearby, lie flat in the nearest ditch or ravine. Shield your head with your hands. Be on the lookout for flash floods.
3. If you are surrounded by woods during severe weather, seek shelter under a thick growth of small trees.
4. Stay away from metal objects such as tractors, other farm machinery, metal pipes and wire fences.
5. Don't seek shelter under an isolated tree in an open field, and don't seek shelter in a small shed.
6. Stay off the telephone, unless you need it for an emergency. Telephone wires can conduct electrical current.



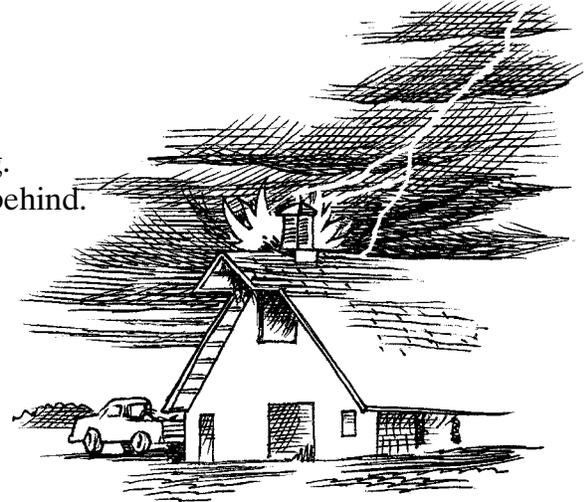
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See our [full line of safety supplies](#), including respirators, eye and ear protection, coveralls, first aid and more.

Protection from Severe Weather

Lightning can be deadly

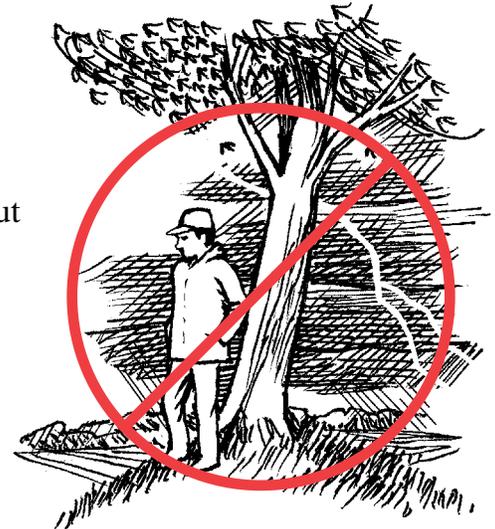
- Lightning injures or kills more people in the United States than hurricanes or tornadoes.
- Lightning is also a major cause of fires in barns, livestock buildings and other agricultural structures. The plastic used in many greenhouse structures is highly toxic when it burns. If you are in a greenhouse and it is struck by lightning or starts to burn, immediately get out and seek other shelter.
- Lightning is unpredictable. It can strike even if it's not raining.
- If you hear thunder, you can assume that lightning is not far behind. Alert your supervisor, and follow your supervisor's instructions for taking shelter.
- Some of the ways lightning can hurt you are:
 - by directly striking you
 - by striking the ground near you
 - by striking an object you are touching



Lightning safety tips

- Avoid standing on a hilltop or under an isolated tall tree.
- Stay away from metal objects. If you are wearing metal jewelry or any other metal objects, take them off.
- Don't use power tools or other electrical equipment.
- If you are indoors, stay away from water and from open windows and doors. Also try to avoid standing water outdoors.
- If you are caught in an open field and think lightning is about to strike, crouch down as close to the ground as possible. Put your hands on your knees, and your head between your knees. Don't put your hands on the ground.
- Immediately notify your supervisor and have someone call for medical help if a co-worker is struck by lightning.

Note to trainer: Let employees know which of your supervisors or other employees are trained in first aid and CPR.



Don't stand under an isolated tall tree.

Are there any questions?

Note to trainer: Take time to answer trainees' questions. Then review the **Severe Weather Do's and Don'ts**.

SEVERE WEATHER DO'S AND DON'TS

DO:

- Listen for thunder and look for other signs indicating a storm is approaching.
- Stay away from running water and bodies of water during storms.
- Follow your supervisor's instructions for taking shelter.

DON'T:

- Seek shelter under a tall tree or in a small shed during a storm.
- Ever touch downed power lines.
- Return to the job until your supervisor tells you the severe weather has ended.

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