



Latah County Idaho
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MARCH 2024
 NEWSLETTER

2024 CALENDAR

Next meeting – April 3rd, 2024, at 6:30 pm at Latah County Fairgrounds – Team building exercise.



Weather - Flooding and Lightning Safety

Severe weather can happen anytime, in any part of the country. Severe weather can include hazardous conditions produced by thunderstorms, including damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail, lighting, flooding and flash flooding, and winter storms. This month as spring approaches we are going to look more closely at flooding and lightning safety.

Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. Floods are the most common disaster in the United States. Failing to evacuate flooded areas or entering flood waters can lead to injury or death. Floods may:

- Result from rain, snow, coastal storms, storm surges and overflows of dams and other water systems.
- Develop slowly or quickly. Flash floods can come with no warning.
- Cause outages, disrupt transportation, damage buildings, and create landslides.

Each year in the US, there are about 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes and about 300 people struck by lightning. Of those struck, about 30 people are killed and others suffer lifelong disabilities. Most of these tragedies can be prevented. When thunderstorms threaten, get inside a building with plumbing and electricity, or a hard-topped metal vehicle!

Sources: Ready.gov and weather.gov

FLOOD WATCH means be prepared!

Flooding is **possible** and may occur within the next 6 to 48 hours.

If you get this alert at home: know your risk, evacuate if told to do so, protect your property if you have time, and put important documents in a waterproof container.

FLOOD WARNING means take action! Flooding is occurring or about to occur. If you are at home: know your risk, evacuate if instructed to do so, and protect your property if time permits. If you are in your car: turn around – don't drown, avoid flood waters, and stay off bridges over fast-moving water.

Staying Safe During a Flood

- Evacuate immediately, if told to evacuate. Never drive around barricades. Local responders use them to safely direct traffic out of flooded areas.
- Contact your healthcare provider if you are sick and need medical attention. Wait for further care instructions and shelter in place, if possible. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 9-1-1.
- Listen to the Emergency Alert System (EAS), NOAA Weather Radio or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions regarding flooding.
- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. **Turn Around. Don't Drown!**
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water. Fast-moving water can wash bridges away without warning.
- Stay inside your car if it is trapped in rapidly moving water. Get on the roof if water is rising inside the car.
- Get to the highest level if trapped in a building. Only get on the roof if necessary and once there, signal for help. Do not climb into a closed attic to avoid getting trapped by rising floodwater. Source: Ready.gov

Lightning: What You Need to Know

- NO PLACE outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!!
- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
- When you hear thunder, immediately move to safe shelter: a substantial building with electricity or plumbing or an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle with windows up.
- Stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.

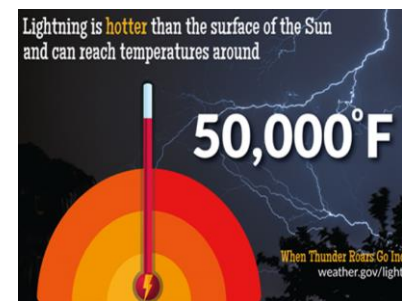
Indoor Lightning Safety

- Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.
- Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths, and faucets.
- Stay away from windows and doors and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.

Last Resort Outdoor Risk Reduction Tips

If you are caught outside with no safe shelter anywhere nearby the following actions may reduce your risk:

- Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges or peaks
- Never lie flat on the ground
- Never shelter under an isolated tree
- Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter
- Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.)



Lightning Myths and Facts!

MYTH: Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

FACT: Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly, especially if it's a tall, pointy, isolated object.

MYTH: If it's not raining or there aren't clouds overhead, you're safe from lightning.

FACT: Lightning often strikes more than three miles from the center of the thunderstorm, far outside the rain or thunderstorm cloud. It can strike 10-15 miles away.

MYTH: A lightning victim is electrified, and you shouldn't touch them.

FACT: The human body does not store electricity. You can touch them and give CPR if necessary. Be aware of more lightning and move to safety.