

EMERGENCY PLANNING

... When Thunder Roars — Go Indoors!!!

ARE YOU READY FOR A THUNDERSTORM??? Lightning is a serious danger! So what can you do to prepare yourself and your family???

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;
- ⇒ 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 NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for the latest weather forecasts.

WHEN A STORM APPROACHES:

- ⇒ Find shelter in a building or car. Keep car windows closed and avoid convertibles;
- ⇒ Telephone lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. Unplug appliances. Avoid using the telephone or any electrical appliances;
- ⇒ Avoid taking a bath or shower, or running water for any other purpose;
- ⇒ Turn off the air conditioner. Power surges from lightning can overload the compressor, possibly 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 prevent glass from shattering into your home.

IF CAUGHT OUTSIDE:

- ⇒ If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees;
- ⇒ If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter immediately!
- ⇒ If you are unable to go inside, find 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.
- ⇒ Do **NOT** lie flat on the ground—this will make you a larger target!

AFTER THE STORM PASSES:

- ⇒ Stay away from storm-damaged areas;
- ⇒ Listen to the radio 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;
- ⇒ Give first aid. If breathing has stopped, begin rescue breathing. If the heart has stopped beating, a trained person should begin CPR.

THE #1 LIGHTNING MYTH is “lightning never strikes the same place twice.” **THIS IS FALSE!!** Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly, especially if it’s a tall pointy isolated object. Places prone to lightning are places to avoid when thunderstorms are nearby!

THE #2 LIGHTNING MYTH is “If it’s not raining, or if clouds are not overhead, I’m safe from lightning!” **THIS IS FALSE!!** Lightning often strikes more than three miles from the thunderstorm, far outside the rain or even thunderstorm clouds. “Bolts from the blue,” though infrequent, can strike 10-15 miles from the thunderstorm. Under extreme conditions, anvil lightning can strike the ground over 50 miles from the thunderstorm.

Knowledge and preparation are your best defense and are your responsibility! For more information on EMERGENCY PLANNING, call 503.982.9429, or visit our website at www.cityofhubbard.org.



PHARMACEUTICALS & DRINKING WATER:

Today’s advanced water monitoring technology allows researchers to detect compounds from pharmaceuticals and personal care products in very small amounts in waterways, and, in some cases, drinking water supplies. While research has **NOT** demonstrated human health impacts at these levels, the water community continues to pay close attention to scientific developments in this area. The best and most cost-effective way to ensure safe water at the tap is to keep our source waters clean. **You can help by refraining from flushing unused medications down the toilet or sink.** Instead find out if your pharmacy accepts medications for disposal, or contact the local health department for information about proper disposal of medications.

WATER THEFT: Have you ever seen someone hooked up to one of the City’s hydrants, and wondered what they were doing? Chances are they may be obtaining City water illegally! Although the City does occasionally sell water to local contractors or other special interest groups, these groups must first obtain permission from Public Works and must pay a \$50.00 hydrant hook-up fee. Water is then metered, and costs \$3.00/1000 gallons. **IF YOU SEE SOMEONE OTHER THAN A PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE WHO APPEARS TO BE HOOKED UP TO A HYDRANT—GIVE US A CALL A.S.A.P. AT 503.982.9429 SO WE CAN CONFIRM THEY HAVE PERMISSION TO BE DRAWING CITY WATER!** If possible, please note the license plate number of the vehicle prior to calling us.

ILLEGAL DUMPING: Another area which goes hand-in-hand with water theft, is the illegal dumping of any type of substance into the City’s wastewater collection system. Foreign substances can wreak havoc with the treatment process, and can be very costly to correct! **IF YOU SEE SOMEONE OTHER THAN A PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE WHO APPEARS TO BE DUMPING OR WORKING IN OR AROUND A MANHOLE—GIVE US A CALL A.S.A.P. AT 503.982.9429!** Again, if possible note the license plate number of the vehicle prior to calling us.

— *Hubbard Public Works*