



NOAA's New Lightning Fatality Database and Applications in Lightning Safety Education



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When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

New NOAA Lightning Fatality Database

- 2006 – 2012
- 238 fatalities (as of 21 Dec 2012)
- Sources:
 - Media
 - NWS Offices
 - Local Officials
- Usually updated within days of event
- More accurate and more timely than StormData
- Database questions? Contact john.jensenius@noaa.gov

National Weather Service Lightning Safety

To date, there has been 26 fatalities in 2011 in 18 States and Guam Missouri and Utah tragically have 3 deaths

No	Date	Day	ST	City	Age	Sex	Location	Activity	Victim
1	5/23	Mon	MO	Joplin	31	M	Outside open	Tornado rescue	Officer Jeff Taylor
2	6/7	Tue	LA	Shreveport	49	M	Golf course	Golfing	Jay Greenleaf
3	6/9	Thu	PA	Sadsbury	13	M	Open field	Baling hay	Levi Lantz
4	6/10	Fri	NC	Durham Crt	45	M	Field	Feeding livestock	Steven Taylor
5	6/11	Sat	MT	Bridger	54	M	In open, on horse	Herding cattle	Gary Devines
6	6/21	Tue	SC	Ruby	26	M	Open field	Playing baseball	Michael Gilledge
7	7/1	Fri	WI	Burnett Cnty	11	F	Under Tree	Camping	McKenzie Klar
8	7/3	Sun	NJ	Hammonton	54	M	Near Tree	Family picnic	Stephen M. Rooney
9	7/11	Mon	UT	Emery Cnty	56	M	Open Desert	Camping	Joseph L. Genser
10	7/12	Tue	AZ	Big Lake	46	M	Camping	Camping	Rob Christopher
11	7/13	Wed	UT	Carbon Cnty	12	M	Open area	Camping, Scouts	David Rayborn
12	7/23	Sat	MI	Oscoda Cnty	54	F	River bank	Tubing	Lisa Mann
13	7/23	Sat	MI	Oscoda Cnty	54	F	River bank	Tubing	Cheryl Nickert-Keyser
14	7/30	Sat	MO	Polaski Cnty	20	F	River bank	Canoeing	Lindsay Smith
15	7/31	Sun	MS	Pascagoula	41	M	Pier	Fishing	Bobby Broadus
16	8/3	Wed	SD	Wasta	57	M	On Interstate	Riding motorcycle	Kurt Stolba
17	8/4	Thu	AZ	Fredonia	64	F	Grand Canyon	Tourism	German tourist
18	8/5	Fri	MO	Warsaw	78	F	Boat Ramp	Pulling out boat	Peggy Louise White
19	8/8	Mon	AR	Reactor	71	M	Open Field	Chopping cotton	William 'Neef' Anol

Lightning Fatalities for 2011 by State

2011 Lightning Fatality Demographics

State	Gender	Age	Day of Week	By Month	
AZ	2	19 (73%)	0 (0%)	Sun 3 (12%)	11 10 09 08 07 06 Norm*
AR	1	7 (70%)	3 (12%)	Mon 3 (12%)	Jan 0 0 0 1 0 1 0
CO	1	28.29	3 (12%)	Tue 3 (12%)	Feb 0 0 0 1 0 0 0
FL	1	38.39	1 (4%)	Wed 2 (12%)	Mar 0 0 1 0 1 0 1
GU	1	40.49	7 (27%)	Thu 4 (15%)	Apr 0 0 1 0 1 3 2
KS	1	58.59	9 (35%)	Fri 4 (15%)	May 1 4 2 2 5 5 6
LA	1	68.69	1 (4%)	Sat 5 (23%)	Jun 5 7 12 9 12 10 12
MI	2	78.79	2 (8%)	Jul 9	11 10 14 10 16 16
MO	3	80.89	0 (0%)	Unknown 0 (0%)	Aug 6 4 3 0 9 7 12
MS	1	Unknown	0 (0%)	Unknown 0 (0%)	Sep 4 2 4 1 5 4 5
MT	1	Unknown	0 (0%)	Unknown 0 (0%)	Oct 1 1 1 0 2 2 1
NC	1	Unknown	0 (0%)	Unknown 0 (0%)	Nov 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
NJ	2	Unknown	0 (0%)	Unknown 0 (0%)	Dec 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
OH	1	Unknown	0 (0%)	Unknown 0 (0%)	Year 26 29 34 28 45 48 55
PA	1	Unknown	0 (0%)	Unknown 0 (0%)	
SC	1	Unknown	0 (0%)	Unknown 0 (0%)	
SD	1	Unknown	0 (0%)	Unknown 0 (0%)	
UT	3	Unknown	0 (0%)	Unknown 0 (0%)	
WI	1	Unknown	0 (0%)	Unknown 0 (0%)	

Lightning Safety Applications

- Tailor Media Features
- Tailor Lightning Safety Training
- Lightning Safety Graphics (16 total)
 - Built from new database
 - Useful in teaching lightning safety

Lightning Fatalities in U.S. (2006-2011) (210 deaths)

- Outdoors (99.0%)
- Indoors (1.0%)

Lightning Fatalities in U.S. (2006-2011) (210 deaths)

- Outside Far From Safety (33.8%)
- Outside Near Safety (66.2%)
- Not Classified (0.0%)
- Inside House Not Obeying Indoor Safety Rules (0.0%)
- Inside House Obeying Indoor Safety Rules (0.0%)

Lightning Fatalities in U.S. (2006-2011) (210 deaths)

- Male (80.5%)
- Female (19.5%)

Lightning Fatalities in U.S. (2006-2011) (210 deaths)

Rank Number of Lightning Fatalities (red = top ten)

Lightning Fatalities in U.S. (2006-2011) (210 deaths)

Per Capita Rank of Lightning Fatalities (red = top ten)

- Applications questions? Contact wroeder@cfl.rr.com