
Safety-Gram

Title 45, Chapter 11

March 2019

Volume 20, Number 3

LIGHTNING

- Safeguards should be put in place to prevent employee exposure to lightning. Employers should recognize lightning as an occupational hazard. Operators and employees at mine sites should take lightning safety seriously.
- Lightning is uncontrollable and can cause damage despite best efforts. There is no safe place outdoors during a lightning storm. Lightning often strikes the same place, repeatedly if it is a tall object. Any plan of action should be site-specific in order to minimize the hazard. Systematic attention to details of grounding, bonding, shielding, air terminals, surge protection devices, detection and notification, personnel education, maintenance, and employment of risk management principles are recommended.
- Areas of exposure at typical mines include: gated entrances; conveyors and crushers; hoppers; loading; hauling; maintenance buildings; administrative buildings; weigh stations; compressor and pumping stations; diesel generator stations; as well as other locations specific to particular mine activities.



If you hear thunder, even a distant rumble, get to a safe place immediately.
Thunderstorms always include lightning. Any thunder you hear is caused by lightning!

- Immediately get off elevated objects.
- If you are caught in a storm with no shelter, as a last resort, squat down by sitting on the heels of your feet with the balls and toes of your feet touching the ground, with your feet as close together as possible to lower your height and tuck your head to your knees.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity.
- If someone is struck:
- Victims do not carry an electrical charge and may need medical attention.
 - Monitor the victim and begin CPR or AED (Automated External Defibrillator) if necessary.
 - Call 911 for help.