

Safety-Gram

Title 45, Chapter 11

June 2021

LIGHTNING

Volume 22, Number 6

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.

- 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 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

Outdoor Safety

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.)

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!

Blasting

- Lightning continues to be one of the greatest risks that blasters face. Make sure lightning is respected and that procedures are in place to mitigate the risk it poses.
- **Title 45- Chapter 11 Section 911.37C- Charging of holes shall be suspended and the persons withdrawn to a safe location upon the approach of an electrical storm**