



**FORSYTHCOUNTY**  
Department of Communications  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LIGHTNING SAFETY WEEK IS JUNE 21-27**

*Citizens reminded to exercise caution*

**FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia** – Lightning is one of the leading causes of weather-related deaths in the United States, according to the National Weather Service. It is estimated there are 25 million lightning flashes each year in the United States. A single lightning bolt can be as hot as 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit, which is hotter than the surface of the sun.

The Forsyth County Fire Department urges all citizens to exercise caution and sound judgment when it comes to lightning, especially during the summer, which is the peak lightning season.

“Lightning is possible many miles away from the nearest thunderhead or rain storm,” Fire Chief Danny Bowman said. “The sound of thunder or existence of rain is not required for lightning strikes to occur.”

Preparedness and precaution are keys to lightning safety. The following safety tips are recommended by the Forsyth County Fire Department and provided by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and the National Weather Service.

- When thunder roars, go indoors. If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Seek safe shelter immediately.
- If indoors, avoid corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.
- Do not take a bath or shower during a thunderstorm.
- Stop outdoor activities at the first roar of thunder and go to a safe shelter.

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- If outdoors, avoid water, high ground and open spaces. Avoid all metal objects including electric wires, fences, machinery, motors and power tools. When possible, find shelter in a substantial building or in a fully enclosed metal vehicle such as a car, truck or a van with the windows completely shut.
- If outdoors and unable to find shelter, do not stand under a tree or in an open area.
- If you are boating or swimming, go to land as quickly as possible.
- Wait 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder before going back outside.
- Dial 911 in the event of an emergency.

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