



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

### **LIGHTNING SAFETY WEEK IS JUNE 19-25**

*Citizens reminded to exercise caution*

**FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia** – According to the National Weather Service, lightning is one of the nation’s deadliest weather phenomena. There are an estimated 25 million cloud-to-ground 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 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 the existence of rain is not required for lightning strikes to occur. Lightning Safety Week is an ideal time for residents to review lightning-related safety tips that can help protect themselves and their families.”

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 (except in an emergency), computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.
- Avoid taking a bath or shower, or running water for any purpose, during a thunderstorm.
- Stop outdoor activities at the first roar of thunder and go to a safe shelter.

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- If caught outdoors, find safe shelter in a building or vehicle if possible.
- If outdoors and unable to find shelter, go to a low-lying, open space away from trees, poles or metal objects. Be a very small target – squat low to the ground and place your hands on your knees with your head between them.
- If you are boating or swimming, go to land and find shelter immediately.
- 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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