Lightning Protection: Preventing a Direct Strike Infographic



LIGHTNING PROTECTION
PREVENTING A DIRECT STRIKE

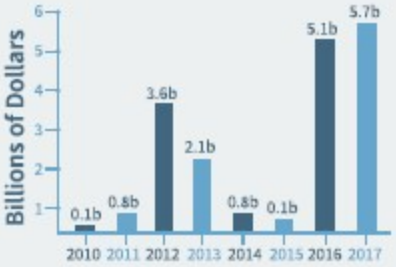
In the first quarter of 2017 alone, thunderstorms caused a record **$5.7 billion** in losses, and lightning kills an average of **30 people a year**. Learn how to keep you, your family, and property safe from lightning.

LIGHTNING IS DEADLY

22,600

An average of 22,600 fires were caused by **lightning** between 2007 and 2011.

According to Aon Benfield's Impact Forecasting, **insured losses** from lightning strikes are at an **all-time high.**



30 **people die a year** from lightning strikes according to the National Weather Service.

According to the Lightning Protection Institute, the top 5 states most often **struck by lightning** are:

1	Florida	**25.3** strikes per sq. mile
2	Louisiana	**20.3** strikes per sq. mile
3	Mississippi	**18.0** strikes per sq. mile
4	Alabama	**15.9** strikes per sq. mile
5	South Carolina Oklahoma (tied)	**14.6** strikes per sq. mile

LIGHTNING IS FAR REACHING

1/3 of all lightning related injuries occur indoors – stay away from:

Corded phones

Electronics

Plumbing

10 Lightning can strike **10 miles** from a thunderstorm.



Lightning can strike **anywhere**, not just the tallest objects.

LIGHTNING PROTECTION

Power surges caused by lightning can damage the electronics in your home.



Lightning protection systems **intercept lightning strikes** and provide a grounding path for dangerous electricity to **discharge safely**, leaving occupants and homes safe from harm.



Panel box surge protective devices (SPDs) serve as the **first line of defense** against harmful home electrical surges, limiting voltages by diverting currents at the electrical service entrance. Only a **qualified electrician** should install SPDs.



Protects electronics plugged into the device from surges, must be **replaced** over time or after a major surge event.



Power strips **DO NOT** provide surge protection.



No surge device can handle a **direct lightning strike**. Unplug sensitive electronics **WELL** before a storm to prevent damage.

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- 1/3 of all lightning related injuries occur indoors. Stay away from:
  - Corded phones
  - Electronics
  - Plumbing
- Lightning can strike **10 miles** from a thunderstorm
- Lightning can **strike anywhere,** not just the tallest objects

Lightning Protection

Power surges caused by lightning can damage the electronics in your home

- Lightning protection systems intercept lightning strikes and provide grounding path for dangerous electricity to discharge safely, leaving occupants and homes safe from harm
- Panel box surge protective devices (SPDs) serve as the first line of defense against harmful home electrical surges, limiting voltages by diverting currents at the electrical service entrance. Only qualified electricians should install SPDs
- Point of use surge protectors protect electronics plugged into the device from surges, must be replaced over time or after a major surge event
- Power strips do not provide surge protection
- No surge device can handle a direct lightning strike. Unplug sensitive electronics well before a storm to prevent damage

Source: *Republished with permission from Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI)*