August Issue

Lightning Strikes Lives and Properties

Lightning strikes the earth about 100 times per second. In the United States, there are between 15 and 20 million ground strikes per year, according to the National Lightning Safety Institute (NLSI).

The bulk of lightning strikes and correspondingly most lightning injuries and fatalities occur during the warm-season months in the U.S. However, they can occur any day of the year, given the right atmospheric conditions. On an average annual basis, 57 people are killed by lightning, in the U.S. Thus far in 2010, through August 3, there have been 22 people killed by lightning in the nation.

Property is also a casualty in lighting cases. In addition to forest fires, lightning has led to an average of over $5 billion in insurance losses per year.

The AccuWeather.com Forensics Team handles dozens of lightning strike-related incidents per year, assisting both insurance companies and private property owners. AccuWeather.com Forensics can provide valuable lightning strike information ranging from plotted maps to detailed tables of lightning strikes within a given radius from a specific address, spanning a certain period of time. In cases where injury or death is involved, the Forensics Team at AccuWeather.com can investigate if there was advance warning of the approach of or the potential for the development of thunderstorms.

The team of Forensic Meteorologists at AccuWeather.com will use their combined meteorological experience of over 100 years to examine all relevant weather data and supply you with the facts and findings via verbal consultation or a written, signed report, as well as expert testimony.

There is no fee for the initial phone consultation. Give the AccuWeather.com Forensics Department a call at 814-235-8626 during normal business hours between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Eastern, Monday through Friday or leave a voice mail in confidence and someone will get back to you.