

LIGHTNING FACTS

1. Average Lightning stroke is 10 to 14 km.
2. Average Thunderstorm is 10 to 16 km wide.
3. Average Thunderstorm travels at a rate of 40 km / hr.
4. Once the leading edge of a thunderstorm approaches to within 16 km, you are at immediate risk due to the possibility of lightning strokes coming from overhanging anvil cloud. Because of this, lightning deaths and injuries occur with clear skies directly overhead.
5. On average, thunder can only be heard over a distance of 5 – 7 km., depending on humidity, terrain, etc.
6. Lightning leaders from thunderclouds proceed in steps of tens of meters, electrifying ground - based objects as they approach the earth. Ground – based objects may launch lightning streamers to meet these leaders. Streamers may be heard and seen. A connecting leader-streamer results in a closed circuit cloud-to-ground lightning flash. Thunder accompanying it is the acoustic shock wave from the electrical discharge. Thus, thunder and lightning are associated with one another. “If you can hear it, clear it . If you can see it, flee it.”
7. Flash/Bang...We all possess a first class lightning detection device, built into our heads. By referencing the time in seconds from seeing the lightning (The Flash or ‘F’) to hearing the thunder (The Bang or ‘B’), we can range lightning’s distance. If ‘F’ to ‘B’ is 5 seconds then lightning distance is 2 km away. If ‘F’ to ‘B’ is 10 seconds then it is 3.5 km away ...at 20 seconds it is 7 km...at 30 seconds it is 10 km. Whenever a storm is within 10 km of your location (ie, F to B of 30 sec or less) , the game should be suspended and the spectators and participants seek safe shelter .