

# PestSure Safety Tips

INSURING THE FUTURE OF PEST CONTROL

A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.

## Summer Thunderstorms



A thunderstorm is a common occurrence that we don't often view as hazardous. The frequency of these weather events (about 100,000 per year according to the National Weather Service) are part of the reason we tend to view them as benign. However, our work in the pest control business keeps us outdoors and in the middle of the weather each day.

The next time you find yourself in the area of a thunderstorm, think about these safety tips.

### ?? Outdoors

- Use the 30-30 count to determine how far away the storm is from your location. Start counting seconds when you see lightning and if the count is 30 seconds or less when you hear thunder, the storm is close enough to pose hazards for you.
- Don't seek shelter from the storm under a tree or any other tall item. Tall items are the most likely to be struck by lightning. Crouch down and lean forward to make yourself as small and low as possible and still minimize your contact with the ground surface. Currents travel across the ground surface so never sit down or lie flat on the ground during a lightning event.

Other weather hazards such as heavy rain or hail, damaging winds and flooding can often accompany a thunderstorm. Try to stay advised of your local weather as you progress through your workday. Consider these other factors when adverse weather catches you out on the job.

### ?? Driving

- Stay in your vehicle and pull off the road. Don't park under trees and try not to touch metal objects like your door handle during close lightning events.
- If you pull off the road during heavy rain, avoid low-lying areas that could flood or create a wash or collapse. Use your hazard flashers to be certain that you are visible to other motorists.
- Adjust your travel speed for the compromised visibility and the changes to the road surface that may result during heavy rain, or hail.

