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May 2008 Newsletter

When Lightning Strikes - Part II

The benefits of using Church Underwriters:

- † Available to all agents
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An average of 67 people are killed by lightning each year and about 300 are injured. Because most churches have at least some outdoor activities, it is important to consider establishing a policy for anyone conducting outside activities.

1. Monitor the weather conditions and forecast 24 hours before the event.
2. Use a portable weather radio to monitor weather conditions during the event.
3. Make sure participants are aware of designated safe areas such as:
 - *Fully enclosed vehicles with window up
 - *Substantial buildings
 - *Low ground; seek cover in clumps of bushes
4. Avoid the following unsafe areas:
 - *Outdoor metal objects (flagpoles, fences, bleachers)
 - *Water (ponds, lakes, pools, standing water)
 - *Solitary trees
 - *Caves
 - *Open fields
 - *High ground
5. Take shelter when you see lightning or hear thunder. Wait a minimum of 30 minutes after the last lightning or thunder before resuming activities.
6. If you feel your hair standing on end or hear a cracking noise you may be in the lightning's electric field. Immediately remove any keys, metal objects, backpacks or caps and crouch down in a catchers stance with your head ducked down.

Zurich Insurance Company has prepared a comprehensive lightning safety guide specifically for churches. You can download a copy on our resource site: [Lightning Safety for Churches](#)

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