



# Lightning Strikes - Shocking!

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## Facts and Myths

The only natural disaster that kills more Americans than lightning is floods. Hurricanes, mudslides and tornadoes all come in behind lightning. And what is amazing to me is that you can go to a NASA Web site (<http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/>) and find that lightning avoids the ocean. Lightning may not hit the ocean often, but it sure likes near coastal environments.

Lightning, which can hit as far away as 20 miles from its thunder cloud source, is so dangerous that it just makes no sense to try to outwit it. "Don't worry, Charlie, the storm is moving away. Pass the bait bucket." Zzzaaaapppp!!

All-metal boats are rarely damaged, due to the ability of the electric charge to quickly run to ground via

the preponderance of hull surface in contact with the seawater. Fiberglass or wood boats are, unfortunately, another story. Those hulls don't conduct electricity well, so "side flash" occurs, which is the electric charge jumping around looking for good conductors. Take a look in the mirror. We humans are good conductors.

## What to Do?

Not getting hit in the first place is the best advice. If the weather forecast is bad, forget about trying to get out there to take advantage of the predators "feeding up" before the storm. It isn't worth it.

But, if you are out there, what do you do when you see a storm approaching? NOAA says:

- Get out of the water if you are swimming off the tran-

som. It's a great conductor of electricity.

- If caught in a boat, crouch down in the center, away from metal hardware.

- Don't stand in puddles of water.

## Let me add a couple of thoughts.

1. Life jackets on everyone.

2. Disconnect all electronics that aren't essential to getting home.

3. If you can see the edges of the storm, and the center of the storm is between you and home, run at speed at a 90-degree angle to the storm and try to go around it. Squalls can be as deadly as a major blow but they are smallish and can be avoided. If

the storm covers the sky from horizon to horizon, say a prayer<sup>1</sup> and head in at speed.

4. Get on the radio and let someone know where you are, where you are headed and what speed you can make. Check in every 15 minutes. After 30 minutes of not checking in, someone needs to start the "rescue clock."

5. It would be desirable to have individuals aboard who are competent in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid. Many individuals struck by lightning or exposed to excessive electrical current can be saved with prompt and proper artificial respiration and/or CPR. There is no danger in touching persons

after they have been struck by lightning.

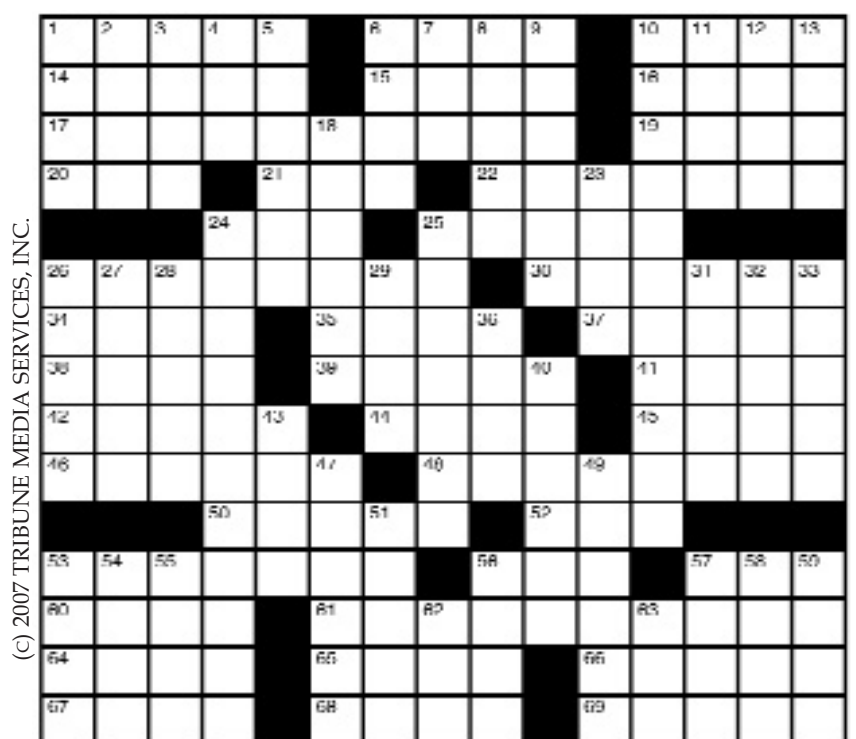
6. If a boat has been, or is suspected of having been, struck by lightning (e.g., overnight on a mooring), check out the electrical system and the compasses to insure that no damage has occurred.

If you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at USCGAUX2006@aol.com or go direct to MaryJo Cruickshank, who is in charge of new members matters, at FSO-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing..."

<sup>1</sup>Dear God, Thy sea is so great and my boat is so small. Protect me.

March 2007 - Moriches Inlet					
The Time Offsets mentioned in the column are as follows:					
	Tidal Time Offsets from Moriches Inlet:	USCG Station	Potunk Point	Mastic Beach	Smith Pt Bridge
	High Tide	+45 min	+4.5 hrs	+4.5 hrs	+3 hrs
	Low Tide	+2 hrs	+5 hrs	+5 hrs	+4 hrs
Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
Wed 07		02:35 AM / 0.07	08:44 AM / 2.70	02:41 PM / 0.13	09:08 PM / 2.91
Thu 08		03:10 AM / 0.19	09:20 AM / 2.53	03:07 PM / 0.26	09:42 PM / 2.83
Fri 09		03:46 AM / 0.32	09:59 AM / 2.38	03:34 PM / 0.40	10:20 PM / 2.76
Sat 10		04:27 AM / 0.47	10:43 AM / 2.26	04:07 PM / 0.52	11:04 PM / 2.70
Sun 11		06:22 AM / 0.59	12:33 PM / 2.18	05:56 PM / 0.64	
Mon 12	12:57 AM / 2.68	07:39 AM / 0.63	01:31 PM / 2.16	07:25 PM / 0.69	
Tue 13	01:58 AM / 2.70	08:52 AM / 0.55	02:37 PM / 2.21	08:52 PM / 0.58	
Wed 14	03:06 AM / 2.80	09:52 AM / 0.36	03:45 PM / 2.37	09:57 PM / 0.37	
Thu 15	04:13 AM / 2.98	10:44 AM / 0.13	04:48 PM / 2.63	10:54 PM / 0.12	
Fri 16	05:13 AM / 3.21	11:33 AM / -0.11	05:43 PM / 2.95	11:48 PM / -0.13	
Sat 17	06:06 AM / 3.42	12:20 PM / -0.33	06:32 PM / 3.26		
Sun 18		12:41 PM / -0.34	06:54 AM / 3.56	01:06 PM / -0.50	07:19 PM / 3.53
Mon 19		01:33 AM / -0.48	07:41 AM / 3.59	01:52 PM / -0.59	08:05 PM / 3.69
Tue 20		02:23 AM / -0.55	08:29 AM / 3.51	02:36 PM / -0.58	08:52 PM / 3.75

# CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 1983 Mr. T movie
  - 6 Notoriety
  - 10 Medal of Honor recipient
  - 14 Songwriter Greenwich
  - 15 Vivacity
  - 16 Ardent
  - 17 Paradise
  - 19 \_\_\_\_\_ Rivera, CA
  - 20 Shoe's tip
  - 21 Disapproving sound
  - 22 Wino
  - 24 Kipling book
  - 25 Former royal house of Italy
  - 26 Warlike
  - 30 "The Scream" painter Munch
  - 34 Chief Norse god
  - 35 Mrs. Nick Charles
  - 37 Hoarder
  - 38 Ensign
  - 39 Clothes lines?
  - 41 In \_\_\_\_\_ of
  - 42 Composer Grofe
  - 44 Gin-and- tonic garnish
  - 45 Young Highlanders
  - 46 Bean and Welles
  - 48 Bilge water
  - 50 "Wayne's World" star Mike
  - 52 Pen on a farm
  - 53 Fabric with a raised design
  - 56 Skier Tommy
  - 57 Menlo Park initials
  - 60 Ritzy wheels
  - 61 Paradise
  - 64 Gossip tidbit
  - 65 United force
  - 66 Select few
  - 67 Sheet of glass
  - 68 Cogito \_\_\_\_\_ sum
  - 69 Evil spirit
  - DOWN
  - 1 Liability
  - 2 "Carry on \_\_\_\_\_"
  - 3 Gumshoe's evidence
  - 4 Be unwell
  - 5 Get lost!
  - 6 Handled
  - 7 After a fashion?
  - 8 Marine ray
  - 9 Salad ingredient
  - 10 Paradise
  - 11 Wickedness
  - 12 Wedding shower?
  - 13 Aroma
  - 18 People
  - 23 Whale groups
  - 24 Paradise
  - 25 Exerts to the utmost
  - 26 Soprano Anna
  - 27 Loafer
  - 28 Truth stretchers
  - 29 Playwright Coward
  - 31 Of birds
  - 32 Marsh grasses
  - 33 Lebanese militia
  - 36 Shortened bullets?
  - 40 Detection device
  - 43 Contemporary Irish singer
  - 47 Staid
  - 49 Moped
  - 51 Allude (to)
  - 53 Radar signal
  - 54 Actress Moreno
  - 55 Portent
  - 56 Short note
  - 57 In good shape
  - 58 Quartet member
  - 59 Biblical paradise
  - 62 Product label
  - 63 Spanish cheer

See Solution on Page 9

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