



Are you ReadyPA?

Social Media Toolkit - June 2022

Use this toolkit of key messages and templates to educate your community about the importance of preparedness. The content in this toolkit is based on the PEMA and FEMA preparedness messaging calendars and are ready for you to use to help make a Ready PA.

This month's topics:	Tools:
Lightning Safety Firework Safety Grilling Safety	Social Media Messages Graphics (follow link below graphic to download) Talking Points
Lightning Safety	

Social Media: Lightning Safety

Facebook

Pennsylvanians are spending more time outdoors this time of year, which is why it's important to talk about lightning safety. PA lightning facts:

- PA sees over 240,000 cloud-to-ground lightning strikes per year (averaging about 5 lightning strikes per square mile).
- PA ranked 9th in the U.S. for lightning fatalities from 1959-2017 with 134 deaths.
- Lightning is dangerous and unpredictable, with bolts able to strike over 10 miles from the storm.
- Every Pennsylvanian is at risk for lightning strikes.

#LightningSafetyAwarenessWeek #PAwx

Twitter

When thunder roars, go indoors! Learn more during Lightning Safety Awareness Week: <https://bit.ly/3dmx1QM>

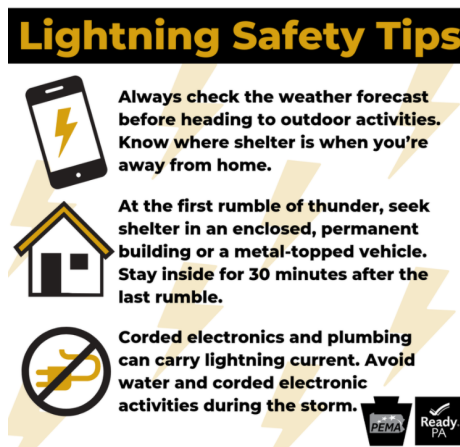
Although most lightning occurs in the summer, people can be struck at any time of year. Lightning kills an average of 47 people in the U.S. each year & injures hundreds more. Stay safe with these tips. Learn more: weather.gov/safety/lightning #LightningSafetyAwarenessWeek #PAWX

Have you signed up for weather alerts on your phone and other devices? Make sure you're set to receive warnings, so you're aware when there are threats of severe weather in your area. Sign up and be ready: bit.ly/SignUpForAlertsPA. #LightningSafetyAwarenessWeek

Graphics: Lightning Safety



[Download](#) this graphic.



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Talking Points: Lightning Safety

Myth: If you're caught outside during a thunderstorm, you should crouch down to reduce your risk of being struck.

Fact: Crouching doesn't make you any safer outdoors. Run to a substantial building or hard topped vehicle. If you are too far to run to one of these options, you have no good alternative. You are NOT safe anywhere outdoors.

Myth: If outside in a thunderstorm, you should seek shelter under a tree to stay dry.

Fact: Being underneath a tree is the second leading cause of lightning casualties.

Myth: Rubber tires on a car protect you from lightning by insulating you from the ground.

Fact: Most cars are safe from lightning, but it is the metal roof and metal sides that protect you, NOT the rubber tires. Remember, convertibles, motorcycles, bicycles, open-shelled outdoor recreational vehicles and cars with fiberglass shells offer no protection from lightning. When lightning strikes a vehicle, it goes through the metal frame into the ground. Don't lean on doors during a thunderstorm.

Myth: If trapped outside and lightning is about to strike, I should lie flat on the ground.

Fact: Lying flat increases your chance of being affected by potentially deadly ground current. If you are caught outside in a thunderstorm, you keep moving toward a safe shelter.

Myth: If thunderstorms threaten while you are outside playing a game, it is okay to finish it before seeking shelter.

Fact: Many lightning casualties occur because people do not seek shelter soon enough. No game is worth death or life-long injuries. Seek proper shelter immediately if you hear thunder. Adults are responsible for the safety of children.

Myth: If it's not raining or there aren't clouds overhead, you're safe from lightning.

Fact: Lightning often strikes more than three miles from the center of the thunderstorm, far outside the rain or thunderstorm cloud. "Bolts from the blue" can strike 10-15 miles from the thunderstorm.

Myth: A lightning victim is electrified. If you touch them, you'll be electrocuted.

Fact: The human body does not store electricity. It is perfectly safe to touch a lightning victim to give them first aid. This is the most chilling of lightning Myths. Imagine if someone died because people were afraid to give CPR!

Myth: If you are in a house, you are 100% safe from lightning.

Fact: A house is a safe place to be during a thunderstorm as long as you avoid anything that conducts electricity. This means staying off corded phones, electrical appliances, wires, TV cables, computers, plumbing, metal doors and windows. Windows are hazardous for two reasons: wind generated during a thunderstorm can blow objects into the window, breaking it and causing glass to shatter and second, in older homes, in rare instances, lightning can come in cracks in the sides of windows.

Myth: Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

Fact: Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly, especially if it's a tall, pointy, isolated object. The Empire State Building is hit an average of 23 times a year.

Social Media: Firework Safety

Facebook

Leave fireworks displays to the professionals. If you decide to have a smaller display, remember:

1. Set off fireworks in an open area, away from structures
2. Ignite one at a time
3. Keep a bucket of water nearby
4. Never let children use fireworks
5. Do not ignite fireworks if you're under the influence

Don't forget to keep nearby residents and pets in mind when using fireworks. Fireworks can be startling and traumatizing to some.

Twitter

Fireworks displays should be left to the professionals, but if you choose to ignite fireworks, here are some safety tips. Always use fireworks safely and responsibly: www.befiresafepa.com #FireworksSafety #BeFireSafePA

It's safer to leave the show to the professionals. Whether you're attending a professional display or using consumer fireworks, ALWAYS remain a safe distance from the ignition spot.

Graphics: Firework Safety



[Download](#) this graphic.



[Download](#) this video.

Talking Points: Firework Safety

- The best way to protect their families is to not use fireworks at home. The U.S. Fire Administration recommends attending public displays and leaving the lighting of fireworks to the professionals.
- Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. According to the [National Fire Protection Association](#), sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. [For children under 5 years of age, sparklers accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries.](#)
- Never allow children to play with fireworks, even sparklers, which can burn at temperatures of at least 1200 degrees.
- Only allow adults to light fireworks one at a time, then quickly back away.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or garden hose handy in case of a fire.
- Never pick up or try to relight fireworks that have not fully ignited.
- After the fireworks have burned, fully douse them with water before picking them up or disposing to prevent trash fires.
- Never use fireworks after consuming alcohol, or other medications or substances that can impair judgment or the ability to react quickly to an emergency.
- Whether attending a professional display, or using consumer fireworks, always remain at a safe distance from the ignition location.

Grilling Safety

Social Media: Grilling Safety

Facebook

July is the peak month for grilling fires, followed by May, June & August. Stay safe: <http://ow.ly/HyUG300fseO>

In 2014, 16,600 patients went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills. Learn more: <http://ow.ly/HyUG300fseO>

Twitter

Safety Tip: Grills should be placed well away from home/deck railings & out from under eaves & branches. Learn more: ow.ly/kMfq300fumf

Fire Safety Tip: Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from grills & in trays below the grill. Learn more: ow.ly/kMfq300fumf

Graphics: Grilling Safety



[Download](#) this graphic.



[Download](#) this GIF.

Talking Points: Grilling Safety

- Stay fire safe this summer! Follow these grilling safety tips.
 - Only use your grill outside. Keep it at least 3 feet from siding, deck rails and eaves.
 - Keep a 3-foot safe zone around your grill. This will keep kids and pets safe.
 - Open your gas grill before lighting.
 - Keep an eye on your grill, fire pit or patio torches. Don't walk away from them when they are lit.
 - Clean your grill after each use. This will remove grease that can start a fire.
 - Place coals from your grill in a metal can with a lid once they have cooled.
- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave the grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.
- Grilling safety for charcoal grills.
 - There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as fuel.
 - If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
 - Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
 - There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
 - When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

READY PA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is designed for all citizens and includes information about each of the monthly preparedness topics.

- When you receive the electronic copy, forward it to community groups, personal care homes, hospitals and schools, etc.
- Make the newsletter available on your website and promote it and its content via social media posts and more.
- Include a link to the most recent newsletter, which can be found on ready.pa.gov.
- Click [here](#) for the most recent Ready PA newsletter.

Ready PA Logo

www.ready.pa.gov



Ready PA Tip Sheet

[Access the June Tip Sheet](#) in your communications and share in your communications.