



How Dangerous is Lightning?

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Safety
 National Program

Lightning is a major cause of storm related deaths in the U.S. A lightning strike can result in a cardiac arrest (heart stopping) at the time of the injury, although some victims may appear to have a delayed death a few days later if they are resuscitated but have suffered irreversible brain damage.

According to *the NWS Storm Data*, over the last 30 years (1989-2018) the U.S. has averaged 43 *reported* lightning fatalities per year. Only about 10% of people who are struck by lightning are killed, leaving 90% with various degrees of disability. More recently, in the last 10 years (2009-2018), the U.S. has averaged 27 lightning fatalities.

Odds of Becoming a Lightning Victim (based on averages for 2009-2018)			
Estimated U.S. population as of 2019			330,000,000
Average Number of Deaths Reported	27	Estimated number of Injuries	243
Odds of being struck in a given year (estimated total deaths + estimated injuries)			1/1,222,000
Odds of being struck in your lifetime (Est. 80 years)			1/15,300
Odds you will be affected by someone struck (10 people for every 1 struck)			1/1,530