



LA National Guard Emergency Management Bulletin

May 2023
Volume FY23 Issue 8



Purpose

The National Guard (NG) Emergency Management (EM) program is responsible for all activities and operations related to preparing for, mitigating the potential effect of, preventing, responding to, and recovering from all multi-agency and/or multi-jurisdictional emergencies on or impacting NG installations nationwide. The NG EM Program functions within an all-hazards environment consisting of all natural, technological (man-made), and terrorism hazards.

Vision

To provide the NG EM services when and where they are needed with the joint and interagency capacity necessary to effectively and efficiently protect the NG community and mission capabilities from all hazards.

Mission

To provide integrated and comprehensive NG EM services necessary to protect our community and mission capabilities from all hazards in a cost effective, implementable, and sustainable manner through resiliency.

LANG EM WEB PAGE:

<http://geauxguard.la.gov/resources/emergency-management/>



IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KNOW

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LA National Guard Joint Operation
Center 888-278-8748

GOHSEP 225-925-7500

American Red Cross
1-800-RED-CROSS

Federal Emergency Management
Agency 1-800-621-FEMA

National Poison Control Center
1-800-222-1222

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-7233



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Spring is here and along with it comes evening thunderstorms and mosquitoes. We all want to get outside after the long cold winter we are all venturing outside to mow yards, plant flowers and gardens, fish or just relax. When going outside, we must always remember to protect ourselves from mosquitoes. It is safe to say that mosquitos have been around since time began. Though the loss of blood is seldom of any importance to the victim, the saliva of the mosquito often causes an irritating rash that is a serious nuisance.

This month our bulletin will focus on thunderstorms with lightning, and mosquitos. Both can become deadly if we do not take the proper precautions.

Don't let yourself or your families become a statistic. Please utilize the information in this month's bulletin to educate your family on disease spreading mosquitoes and how to keep them under control.

I hope you find this information useful. Always Remember "Be Prepared".

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PREVENTING DISEASES SPREAD BY MOSQUITOES

The best way to prevent West Nile and the Zika Virus is by avoiding mosquito bites. We can take simple and inexpensive precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes and to eliminate mosquito breeding sites.

What is the best way to avoid mosquito bites?

When mosquitoes are active, take the following precautions:

- If outside during evening, nighttime and dawn hours, or at any time mosquitoes are actively biting, children and adults should wear protective clothing such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and socks.
- If outside during evening, nighttime and dawn hours, or at any time mosquitoes are actively biting, consider the use of an effective insect repellent.
- Repellents containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-methyl-meta-toluamide) have been proven effective. No more than 30% DEET should be used on adults or children.



1) The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Environmental Health has updated their recommendation for use of DEET products on children, citing: "Insect repellents containing DEET with a concentration of 10% appear to be as safe as products with a concentration of 30% when used according to the directions on the product labels."

2) AAP recommends that repellents with DEET should not be used on infants less than 2 months old.

- Repellents containing picaridin (KBR3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus (a plant-based repellent), and IR3535 provide protection similar to repellents with low concentrations of DEET. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under the age of three years.
- Always use repellents according to manufacturer's directions.
- Do not allow young children to apply repellent themselves.
- Do not apply repellent directly to children. Apply to your own hands and then put it on the child's skin.
- Infants and children should be protected by placing mosquito nets over strollers in the evening, nighttime and dawn hours or at any time mosquitoes are actively biting.
- The length of time a repellent is effective varies with ingredient and concentration.
- Avoid prolonged or excessive use of repellents. Use sparingly to cover exposed skin and clothing.
- Wash all treated skin and clothing after returning indoors.
- Store repellent out of reach of children.

MOSQUITO BITE NATURAL REMEDIES

- RUB AREA WITH INSIDE OF BANANA PEEL
- CREATE PASTE OF BAKING SODA AND H₂O AND APPLY TO AREA
- APPLY APPLE CIDER VINEGAR TO AREA
- LAVENDER ESSENTIAL OIL AND TEA TREE OIL RELIEVES STING
- APPLY LEMON SLICE TO AFFECTED AREA
- A SLICE OF ONION WILL IMMEDIATELY REMOVE PAIN FROM INSECT BITES



Make sure you don't have any standing water outside that would allow mosquitoes to breed and multiply your problems.



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What can I do to reduce the number of mosquito breeding sites on my property?

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Adult mosquitoes use weeds, tall grass, and bushes to rest during the daytime. Mosquitoes can enter homes through unscreened windows or doors, or broken screens. Here are some steps that you can take:

- Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace all screens in your home that have tears or holes.
- Eliminate standing water around residential and commercial areas by discarding outdoor artificial containers such as tin cans, plastic containers, glass bottles, or similar water holding containers.
- Do not attempt to drain or alter natural water bodies for mosquito control, since the management of ponds and wetlands is regulated by the Department of Environmental Services and any planned alterations will require a permit before work may begin.
- Remove all discarded tires from your property. The used tire is the most common site for mosquito breeding in the United States.
- Dispose of or drill holes in the bottom of containers left outdoors, such as recycling containers or flowerpots.
- Drainage holes on the sides of containers will still allow enough water for mosquitoes to breed. Do not overlook containers that have become overgrown by aquatic vegetation.
- Mow grass and weeds as short as possible and thin shrubs to allow air circulation through plants.
- Make sure roof gutters drain properly. Clean clogged gutters in the spring and fall and as often as necessary to eliminate standing water.
- Tightly screen “rain barrels” to ensure mosquitoes can’t deposit eggs in or on water.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs. If not in use, keep empty and covered. Do not allow these covers to collect standing water.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish. Water gardens become major mosquito producers if they are allowed to stagnate.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and plastic wading pools when not in use. Both provide breeding sites for domestic mosquitoes.
- Change water in birdbaths at least twice weekly.
- Remind or help neighbors to eliminate mosquito breeding sites on their property.



Note: Under the provisions of the Louisiana Pesticide Law, the Bureau carries out various activities to register and inspect pesticide products, administer special types of pesticide registrations and exemptions, license dealers of restricted-use pesticides and conduct activities protecting the general public and the environment from possible pesticide contamination and misuse.

To register pesticide products online, please visit our [Pesticide Products Registration System](#).

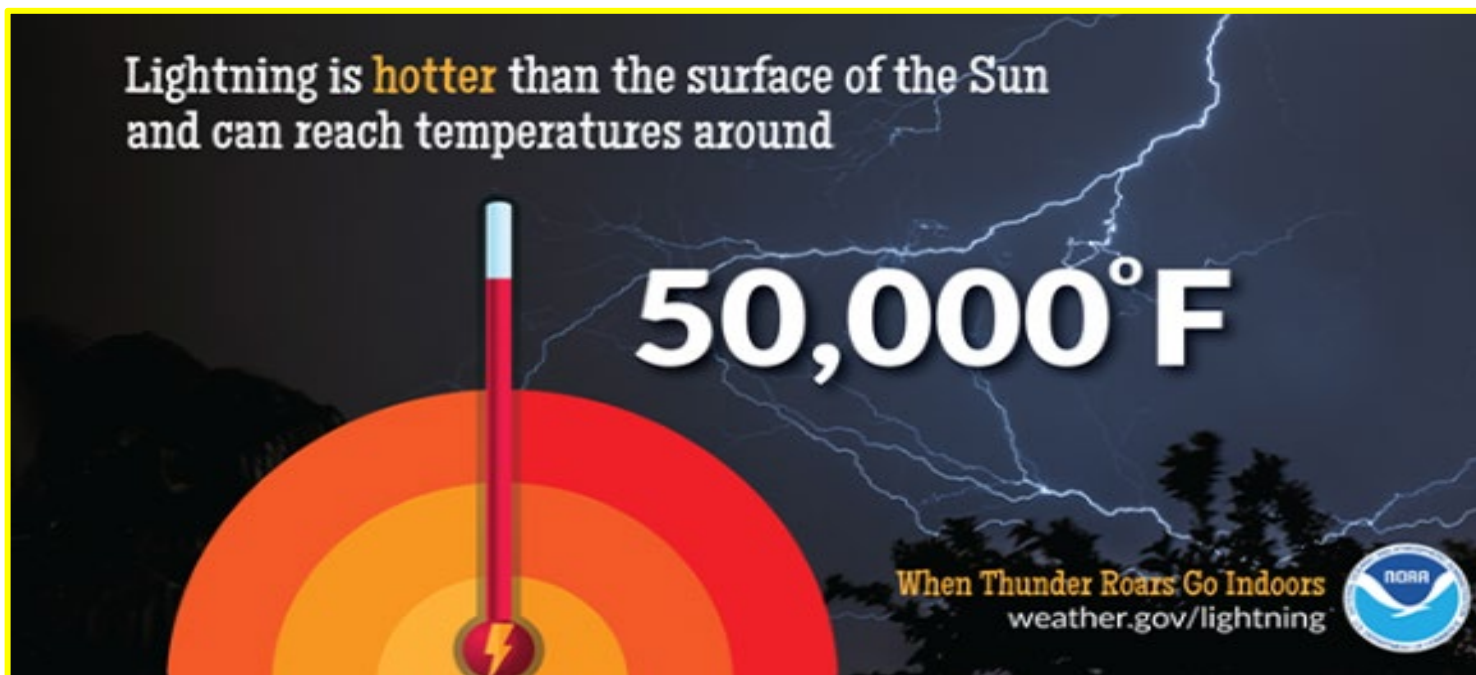
- » [Pesticide Applicator Certification](#)
- » [Pesticide Registration](#)
- » [Section 24c Registrations](#)
- » [Section 18 Emergency Exemptions](#)
- » [Worker Protection Standard](#)





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Lightning

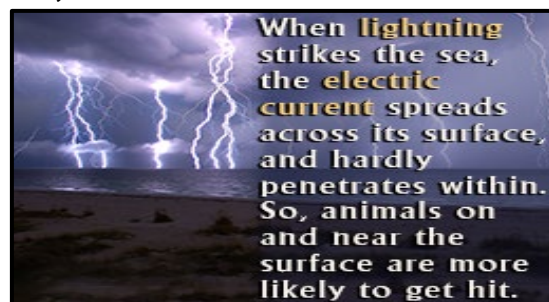
Louisiana is the 2nd-most lightning-prone state

Weather Service meteorologist Phil Grigsby said "it doesn't take as much" for Louisiana to see lightning strikes because it gets so hot and humid. Moisture and rapidly rising warm air contributes to the conditions needed to develop thunderstorms. "June, July and August are the peak months for lightning activity in the U.S. and that also correlates with the peak months usually when people are outdoors doing stuff,"

The most common places that people are struck by lightning are: open fields, in or around water, operating heavy machinery, seeking shelter under trees, talking on a corded phone and using electrical appliances.

Lightning strikes the United States about 25 million times a year. 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 United States each year, and hundreds more are severely injured. This website, <https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning> will teach you how to [stay safe](#) and offer insight into the [science](#) of lightning. You'll find [animated books about lightning](#), [safety tips](#) for all kinds of situations, [games for kids](#) and [resources for teachers](#). You'll learn about [lightning victims](#) and [survivors](#).



WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS!



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LIGHTNING SAFETY

There is little you can do to substantially reduce your risk if you are outside in a thunderstorm. The only completely safe action is to get inside a safe building or vehicle.

-Plan Ahead

Your best source of up-to-date weather information is a [NOAA Weather Radio \(NWR\)](#). Portable weather radios are handy for outdoor activities. If you don't have NWR, stay up to date via internet, smart phone, radio or TV. If you're in a group, make sure the group has a lightning safety plan and are ready to use it. If you're in a large group, you'll need extra time to get everyone to a safe place. NWS recommends having proven professional lightning detection equipment that will alert your group when lightning is nearing the event site.



Cows have a tendency to “pile up” against the fences during storms with many leaning against the wire. All these cows were killed by a single lightning strike..

-Coach of Outdoor Sports Team

Your little league team has an evening game at the local recreational park. The weather forecast calls for partly cloudy skies, with a chance of thunderstorms by early evening. When you arrive at the park, you notice the only safe buildings are the restrooms. Shortly after sunset, the sky gets cloudy and you see bright flashes in the sky. What should you do? Get everyone into vehicles or the restrooms. Do NOT stay in the dugouts; they are *not* safe during lightning activity. Once in a safe place, wait 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder before resuming play.

-At the Beach or Lake

Your family plans to go to the beach today. The weather forecast calls for a nice morning followed by a 30 percent chance of afternoon thunderstorms. When you get to the beach, you see that the only nearby structures are open-sided picnic shelters. The parking lot is a 5 minute walk from the beach. By early afternoon skies are darkening and hear distant thunder. What should you do? Go to your car! Do NOT seek shelter under the beach picnic shelters. Wait 30 minutes until after the last rumble of thunder before going back to the beach.

-Camping, Climbing and Other Wilderness Activities

You're cooking dinner on the camp stove when you hear distant rumbles of thunder. Your tent and a large open sided picnic shelter are nearby. Your vehicle is about quarter of a mile away parked at the trail head. What should you do? Go to your vehicle! The tent and picnic shelter are NOT safe places. Wait 30 minutes until after the last rumble of thunder before going back to the campsite. For those who cannot get to a vehicle, here are tips from the [National Outdoor Leadership School](#) on what to do in the back country, in a canoe, etc., as a last resort.



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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR YOUR PET

...If a disaster strikes, what will happen to your pet? Follow these tips to make an emergency plan for your pets:

- 1. Microchip your pets:** Microchip identification is one of the best ways to ensure you and your pet are reunited if separated. Keep the microchip registration updated: include at least one emergency number of a friend or relative who resides out of your immediate area.
- 2. Keep a collar and tag on all cats and dogs:** Keep several current phone numbers on your animal's identification tag. Identification on indoor-only cats is very important. If your home is damaged during a disaster, they could easily escape.
- 3. Plan a pet-friendly place to stay:** Search in advance for out-of-area pet friendly hotels or boarding facilities or make a housing exchange agreement with an out-of-area friend or relative. Never leave your pet behind if you evacuate!
- 4. Use the buddy system:** Exchange pet information, evacuation plans, and house keys with a trusted neighbors or nearby friends. If you're caught outside evacuation lines when an evacuation order is issued, they can evacuate your pets for you.
- 5. Prepare an emergency kit for each animal:** Stock up on the items you may need during a disaster now so you do not get caught unprepared. These are basic items you should include in your pets' disaster kits. Store your disaster kit supplies in an easy-to-grab container.
 - One-week supply of food. Store it in a water-tight container and rotate it every three months to keep it fresh. If you use canned food, include a spare can opener.
 - One week supply of fresh water. If your household water is unfit to drink, it's also unsafe for your pets. Follow American Red Cross guidelines for storing emergency water for your Family and your pets.
 - Medication. A replacement supply for your pet may not be easily available following a disaster.
 - Copies of vaccination records.
 - Photographs of you with your pets to prove ownership and photographs of your pets in case you need to make "lost pet" fliers.
 - Pet first aid kit.
 - Carrier or leash for each animal.
- 6. Identify emergency veterinary facilities outside of your immediate area:** If a disaster has affected your community, emergency veterinary facilities may be closed. Pets may become injured or ill during the disaster, so make sure you know how to access other emergency facilities. You can also check with your veterinarian to find out if they have an emergency plan that includes setting up in an alternate, emergency facilities.
- 7. Plan for temporary confinement:** Physical structures, like walls, fences and barns may be destroyed during a disaster. Have a plan for keeping your animal safely confined. Often, when animals are evacuated to unfamiliar locations, their stress and fear can lead to illness injury.
- 8. Comfort your animals:** Your animals will appreciate your calm presence and comforting to spend time with them, too. Some animals may be too scared to be comforted. Interact with them on their terms. Some animals may find toys, especially long-lasting chew toys, comforting
- 9. Know where to search for lost animals:** When animals become lost during disaster, they often end up at a local shelter. Keep handy the locations and phone numbers of the shelters in your area.
- 10. Get children involved in disaster preparedness plans:** Discuss how to prepare for disasters and how to safeguard animals in their care.

