

2008 Lightning Fatalities

In 2008, there were 27 lightning fatalities, 16 less than the 2007 total of 45. The 2008 number is well below the 10-year average of 44 fatalities. For the 10th consecutive year, Florida was one of the hardest hit state, with 4 fatalities, tying with Colorado. Maine, Ohio and South Carolina each number two deaths. As in 2007, the most dangerous place to be was outside in an open space, with 12 deaths (44%), followed by 8 victims under a tree. In 2008, almost 4 times as many males, 22 (82%), as females, 5 (18%), were killed by lightning. Tragically, teens and young adults aged 10-29 accounted for the most deaths with 16 (59%), followed by adults in the 30-39 age range with 4 deaths (15%).

2008 Lightning Fatalities by State and Location

State	BF	BO	CA	EQ	GF	IW	OT	OU	TE	UT	Total
AR (Arkansas)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
CO (Colorado)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4
CT (Connecticut)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
FL (Florida)	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
IA (Iowa)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
KS (Kansas)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
MA (Massachusetts)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
ME (Maine)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
MS (Mississippi)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
NC (North Carolina)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
NJ (New Jersey)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
OH (Ohio)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
PA (Pennsylvania)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
RI (Rhode Island)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
SC (South Carolina)	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
TX (Texas)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
VA (Virginia)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
WI (Wisconsin)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	0	3	1	0	0	1	2	12	0	8	27
Percent	0.00	11.11	3.70	0.00	0.00	3.70	7.41	44.44	0.00	29.63	

Legend

BF -	Ball Field
BO -	Boating
CA -	Camping
EQ -	Heavy Equipment/Construction
GF -	Golfing
IW -	In Water
OT -	Other
OU -	Outside/Open Areas
TE -	Telephone
UT -	Under Tree

2008 Lightning Fatalities by Age and Gender

	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Percent
0 to 9	1	0	0	1	3.70
10 to 19	0	7	0	7	25.93
20 to 29	2	7	0	9	33.33
30 to 39	0	4	0	4	14.81
40 to 49	0	2	0	2	7.41
50 to 59	2	0	0	2	7.41
60 to 69	0	1	0	1	3.70
70 to 79	0	0	0	0	0.00
80 to 89	0	0	0	0	0.00
90 to --	0	0	0	0	0.00
Unknown	0	1	0	1	3.70
Total	5	22	0	27	
Percent	18.52	81.48	0.00		