

2009 Lightning Fatalities

In 2009, there were 34 lightning fatalities, 7 more than the 2008 total of 27. The 2009 number is well below the 10-year average of 41 fatalities. For the 11th consecutive year, Florida was the hardest hit state, with 5 fatalities, followed by North Carolina and Texas with 3 deaths each, and California, Minnesota, Missouri and New Mexico each with two deaths. As in 2008, the most dangerous place to be was outside in an open space, with 20 deaths (59%), followed by 5 victims under a tree. In 2009, almost 5 times as many males, 28 (82%), as females, 6 (18%), were killed by lightning. The hardest hit age range was adults 40-49 with 9 deaths, (26%) but tragically, teens and young adults aged 10-29 accounted for 11 (33%).

2009 Lightning Fatalities by State and Location

State	BF	BO	CA	EQ	GF	IW	OT	OU	TE	UT	Total
AL (Alabama)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
AZ (Arizona)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
CA (California)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
CO (Colorado)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
FL (Florida)	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	5
IN (Indiana)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
KS (Kansas)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
KY (Kentucky)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
LA (Louisiana)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
MA (Massachusetts)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
MN (Minnesota)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
MO (Missouri)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
MS (Mississippi)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
MT (Montana)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
NC (North Carolina)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
NJ (New Jersey)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
NM (New Mexico)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
NY (New York)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
PA (Pennsylvania)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
PR (Puerto Rico)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
TX (Texas)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
VA (Virginia)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	2	2	1	0	1	1	2	20	0	5	34
Percent	5.88	5.88	2.94	0.00	2.94	2.94	5.88	58.82	0.00	14.71	

2009 Lightning Fatalities by Age and Gender

	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Percent
0 to 9	0	0	0	0	0.00
10 to 19	2	4	0	6	17.65
20 to 29	1	4	0	5	14.71
30 to 39	0	4	0	4	11.76
40 to 49	1	8	0	9	26.47
50 to 59	0	3	0	3	8.82
60 to 69	0	4	0	4	11.76
70 to 79	1	0	0	1	2.94
80 to 89	0	0	0	0	0.00
90 to --	0	0	0	0	0.00
Unknown	1	1	0	2	5.88
Total	6	28	0	34	
Percent	17.65	82.35	0.00		

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