

Lightning

Lightning is the bright flash of light we see in a thunderstorm. Lightning is caused by an electric charge in the cloud. A thundercloud is made of tiny ice and water particles. The ice and water particles are always bumping into each other. When they bump together, an electric charge is created. This charge fills up the cloud. When the cloud is full, it reaches for an opposite charge on the ground. This connection of charges from the cloud to the ground causes a bolt of lightning. Lightning looks for objects that stick up from the ground. It often strikes trees and tall objects.

When lightning strikes, it creates thunder. If you see lightning or hear thunder, you should go indoors right away. Lightning is very dangerous. It kills and injures people every year. If you see dark clouds, be prepared for thunder and lightning.