

# Lightning

## **Lightning: Safety & Conditions**

Florida is known as the **lightning capital of the United States**, with frequent storms—especially during spring and summer months. Because Bermuda Bay is a **coastal, open-air community**, lightning poses a serious safety risk to residents, guests, and staff.

Your safety is our top priority. Please review and follow the guidelines below.

## **Understanding Lightning Risk in Florida**

- Lightning can strike **miles away from a storm**, even when skies appear clear.
- Coastal and waterfront areas are **more exposed** due to open space and reflective surfaces.
- Lightning is unpredictable and can strike suddenly, with little warning.

If you can hear thunder, **you are close enough to be struck by lightning.**

## **When Outdoor Areas Are Unsafe**

For safety reasons, residents should **immediately leave outdoor areas** when:

- Thunder is heard
- Lightning is seen
- A storm warning is issued
- Weather conditions change rapidly

This includes:

- Pools and hot tubs
- Pool decks and beaches
- Tennis, pickleball, and racquetball courts
- Putting greens and playgrounds
- Open grassy or landscaped areas

## **Pool & Water Safety During Lightning**

- **All pools and hot tubs must be vacated immediately** when lightning or thunder is present.
- Water conducts electricity—remaining in or near water during a storm is extremely dangerous.
- Pool areas may be closed by management during lightning events and will reopen only when conditions are safe.

## **Where to Take Shelter**

During lightning storms, seek shelter **immediately** in:

- A fully enclosed building
- Your residential unit
- The clubhouse (if open and accessible)

Avoid sheltering in:

- Gazebos, tiki huts, or covered patios
- Under trees or near light poles
- Open garages or carports

If no building is available, move to a low area away from trees and metal objects and crouch low.

## Vehicles as Shelter

- A fully enclosed vehicle with the windows up can provide temporary protection.
- Avoid touching metal surfaces inside the vehicle.
- Do **not** shelter under or near parked vehicles outside.

## Indoor Safety During Lightning

While indoors:

- Avoid using corded phones
- Do not shower, bathe, or use plumbing
- Stay away from windows and doors
- Unplug sensitive electronics if time allows

## When Is It Safe to Go Back Outside?

Follow the **30–30 Rule**:

- Wait **30 minutes after the last thunder** before resuming outdoor activities.
- If thunder is heard again, reset the 30-minute timer.

Outdoor amenities may remain closed until conditions are deemed safe.

## Important Reminders

- Residents and guests use outdoor amenities **at their own risk** during changing weather conditions.
- Management may close common areas without notice for safety reasons.
- Failure to leave outdoor areas during lightning may result in loss of amenity privileges.

## Stay Informed

Residents are encouraged to monitor weather conditions using:

- Local news stations
- National Weather Service alerts
- Weather apps with lightning notifications

## Your Safety Comes First

Lightning storms can develop quickly and become dangerous in seconds. Taking lightning warnings seriously helps protect you, your family, and your neighbors.

When in doubt—**go indoors and wait it out.**