

- **Watch animals closely.** Keep all your animals under your direct control. Pets may become disoriented before, during, and after severe thunderstorms. If there has been wind damage, pets may be able to escape from your home or your fence may be broken. Be aware of hazards at nose and paw or hoof level, particularly debris, downed power lines—things that can be dangerous to humans. In addition, the behavior of pets may change dramatically after a severe storm, becoming aggressive or defensive, so be aware of their well-being and take measures to protect them from hazards, including displaced wild animals, and to ensure the safety of other people and animals.

For information on **portable-generator safety** and carbon monoxide poisoning, see Appendix: Portable Generators.

### What to Do if Someone Is Struck by Lightning

#### CORE ACTION MESSAGES

- Get help.
- Give first aid.

#### You should:

- **Call for help.** Get someone to dial 9-1-1 or your local emergency number. Medical attention is needed as quickly as possible.
- **Give first aid.** If the person has stopped breathing, begin rescue breathing. If the person's heart has stopped beating, a trained person should give CPR. If the person has a pulse and is breathing, look for other possible injuries and care for them if necessary.
- **Check the person for burns in two places.** The injured person has received an electrical shock and may be burned both where the current entered and where it exited his or her body. Being struck by lightning can also cause nervous system damage, broken bones, and loss of hearing or eyesight. People struck by lightning carry no electrical charge that can shock other people, and they can be handled safely.

### Media and Community Education Ideas

- Ask your local newspaper or radio or television station to:
  - Do a series on the dangers of thunderstorms and lightning and place special emphasis on what people should do if they are caught outside.
  - Highlight the importance of staying informed about local weather conditions.
  - Run public service ads about how to protect lives and property from severe thunderstorms and lightning.
  - Interview officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture about the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.
  - Inform the community about local public warning systems.
  - Interview a representative of the American Red Cross about giving first aid to people who have been struck by lightning.
  - Interview agents from various insurance companies about what kinds of severe thunderstorm and lightning damage homeowners' insurance does and does not cover.