

Help the reporters to localize the information by providing them with the local emergency telephone number for the fire, police, and emergency medical services departments (usually 9-1-1) and emergency numbers for the local utilities and hospitals. Also provide business telephone numbers for the local emergency management office and American Red Cross chapter.

- Ask a local meteorologist to speak to school and youth groups about the dangers of thunderstorms, lightning, and hail.

### **Facts and Fiction**

**Fiction:** If it is not raining, there is no danger from lightning.

**Facts:** Lightning often strikes outside heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles (16 kilometers) away from any rainfall. This is especially true in the western United States where thunderstorms sometimes produce very little rain.

**Fiction:** The rubber soles of shoes or rubber tires on a vehicle will protect you from being struck by lightning.

**Facts:** Rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires do not provide protection from lightning. The steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal. Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your vehicle, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.

**Fiction:** People struck by lightning carry an electrical charge and should not be touched.

**Facts:** Lightning-strike victims carry no electrical charge and should be attended to immediately. Contact your local American Red Cross chapter for information on CPR/AED and first-aid classes.

**Fiction:** Heat lightning occurs after very hot summer days and poses no threat.

**Facts:** "Heat lightning" is a term used to describe lightning from a thunderstorm too far away for thunder to be heard. All lightning is dangerous.

**Fiction:** Lightning never strikes twice in the same place.

**Facts:** Just because lightning struck a place once does not make it less likely that it will strike again in the same place. In fact, it may indicate that the place is more vulnerable to lightning strikes than other places in the immediate area.