

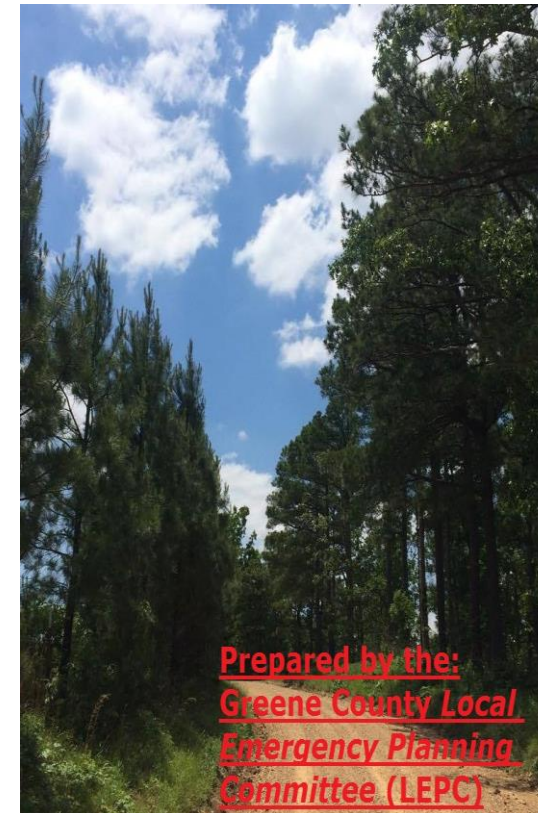
“He who fails to plan is planning to fail.” – Sir Winston Churchill

The Greene County LEPC serves as the link between citizens, industry, and government in promoting planning, training, education, and professional development of its members in order to enhance programs which encourage the safety and health of the residents of Greene County. These initiatives include conducting educational programs to help the public understand safety risks and community rights.

Greene County LEPC  
320 West Court Street  
Suite 107  
Paragould, AR 72450

# Hazards of Greene County

## Thunderstorms & Lightning





### When thunder roars, go indoors!

On average lightning is responsible for 66 fatalities annually. In addition, hundreds of people are injured each year, many with serious and lasting impacts on their quality of life such as permanent nerve damage and hearing loss.

In the United States, lightning deaths and injuries occur most frequently in open areas. Lightning safety is crucial when you are outdoors, especially since so many activities take place in open areas like athletic fields and golf courses. If outdoors, plan to immediately seek safe shelter in a substantial building or hard-topped vehicle if you hear thunder or the skies look threatening.

### Remember, there is **NO** safe place outdoors!

“Thunder is good, thunder is impressive; but it is lightning that does all the work.”  
- Mark Twain

People are particularly vulnerable to lightning strikes when a storm is approaching or exiting their area. Lightning can strike over 10 miles away from a thunderstorm.

### Thunder & Lightning Safety

1. Keep an eye on the sky. Look for darkening skies, flashes of lightning, or increasing wind, which may be signs of an approaching thunderstorm. Get to a safe shelter immediately if a thunderstorm approaches. Coaches and other leaders should listen to NOAA Weather Radio during practice sessions and games for the latest forecasts and warnings.
2. Postpone or halt outdoor activities before the rain begins. Many people take shelter from the rain, but most people struck by lightning are not in the rain. Go quickly inside a completely enclosed building, not a carport, open garage, dugout or covered patio. If no enclosed building is nearby, get inside a hard-topped all-metal vehicle and remain there until the storm has passed.

### Indoor Safety

- Avoid contact with corded phones, electrical equipment or cords, and plumbing.
- Do not take a shower, wash dishes, or do laundry.
- Stay away from windows and doors and stay off porches.

### More Information

Additional information about lightning safety is available on the National Weather Service lightning safety website. This site contains a wealth of information about lightning safety and provides insight to the science and medical aspects of lightning.

<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov>

*(This brochure has been adapted from material provided by the Doña Ana County, New Mexico LEPC.)*

### Contact Us

Greene County LEPC  
320 West Court Street #107  
Paragould, AR 72450  
(870) 239-6300