

## Thunderstorms Lightning Hail



Thunderstorms are often accompanied by high winds, hail, lightning, heavy rain and in rare cases can produce tornadoes. Hail is formed when updrafts in thunderclouds carry raindrops upward into extremely cold areas of the atmosphere, where they freeze and merge into lumps of ice.

### What to do if outside:

- If you are caught outside and you can see lightning or hear thunder, you are in danger of being hit. Seek shelter immediately either in an enclosed building or a hard-topped vehicle.
- There is no safe place outside in a thunderstorm.
- If caught outside far from a safe location, stay away from tall objects, such as trees, poles, wires and fences.
- Take shelter in a low lying area.
- Wait 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder before going outside again.

### Thunderstorms, lightning and hail:

- Thunderstorms and lightning occur throughout Canada but less frequently in the North. On average, 10 people die each year in Canada and up to 160 are injured during such storms.
- Thunderstorms are usually over within an hour, although a series of thunderstorms can last several hours.
- Hailstorms occur across Canada, mostly from May to October. They are most frequent in Alberta, the southern Prairies and in southern Ontario.
- Some hailstones are the size of peas while others can be as big as grapefruits.
- Hail comes down at great speed, especially when accompanied by high winds and can cause serious injuries and damages.