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## **A Detailed Analysis of Lightning Deaths in the United States from 2006 through 2019**

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### **Abstract**

In 2001, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Weather Service initiated a campaign to reduce the number of lightning casualties in the United States. Considerable information was made available to news media, emergency managers, and the public through NOAA's lightning safety web site. In addition, in 2006 the NWS began collecting detailed data with respect to fatal lightning incidents. Between 2006 and 2019, at least 415 lightning fatalities occurred in the United States. These fatalities have been documented in NOAA's and the National Lightning Safety Council's online lightning fatality databases. Included in the information collected are the age and gender of each victim, the location of each incident, and the activity that put each victim at risk. In addition, the day of the week and the city and state where the incident occurred are included. In this paper, we will examine these data to help identify the situations and activities that lead to the most lightning fatalities. Although the goal of the National Lightning Safety Council's efforts is to reduce the number of lightning casualties in the United States, much of the information is applicable to other parts of the world. This information can help target safety efforts toward those situations that put people at risk.

### **Topic Areas**

Lightning Safety, Protection, and Casualty Occurrence

### **Submission Format**

Oral