



City of Cottonwood Fire Department



For Immediate Release

Date: July 16, 2013
Contacts: Mike Kuykendall, Fire Chief 928-634-2741
Cottonwood Fire Department mkuykendall@cottonwoodaz.gov

Monsoon Safety Tips

The City of Cottonwood Fire Department reminds our residents and visitors that the “Monsoon Season” carries with it a number of hazards.

The time period from June 15th through September 30th has been defined as "The Monsoon." A period of extreme heat is typically ongoing at its onset, which in the coming days or weeks is followed by an influx of moisture leading to daily rounds of thunderstorms. These thunderstorms present an array of hazards which often strike suddenly and with violent force. Road closures, as well as power and communication outages are additional consequences of monsoon weather hazards.

The following safety tips should be observed during the “Monsoon”:

- **Flash Flood Safety**
 - If you see a sign that says "Do Not Cross When Flooded," take it seriously
 - Flash floods are the #1 thunderstorm-related killer
 - Most flash flood deaths occur in vehicles
 - Moving water 1-2 feet deep will carry away most vehicles
 - Never enter a flooded low water crossing even if it is not barricaded
 - Keep children away from creeks and washes when heavy rain is in the area
 - Be especially careful at night when water depth and road conditions are harder to see

- **Power Line Safety**
 - It is impossible to detect if a downed utility line is energized.
 - Avoid downed power lines
 - Call 911 if you observe a downed power line

- **Lightning Safety**
 - No place outside is safe from lightning during a thunderstorm
 - Lightning can strike up to 10 miles away from a storm

- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you
 - To avoid being struck by lightning stay away from open fields, high land, trees, poles, other tall objects, standing bodies of water including swimming pools, and metal objects including golf clubs and lawn chairs.
 - Move inside a strong building or an enclosed hardtop vehicle
 - Avoid contacting inside wiring and plumbing during a thunderstorm; this includes appliances and corded phones
 - Stay in shelter for 30 minutes after the last thunder
 - If someone is struck by lightning, call 911 immediately
- **Thunderstorm Safety**
 - Thunderstorms frequently produce strong downward rushes of air, called microbursts
 - These gusty winds can cause extensive damage and/or generate areas of dense blowing dust
 - If thunderstorms approach, move inside a strong building and stay away from windows
 - Keep batteries, a working battery-powered radio or television, flashlights, and candles handy, in case of a power failure
 - If driving and a dust storm approaches, remember to pull off the road, put vehicle in park, turn off lights, and take your foot off the brake
 - If you're driving and it's raining, slow down. Remember that the beginning of rain storms in the area is the most dangerous times since that's when oils and other automotive fluids are being washed off the roads causing unusually slick conditions.
- **Heat Safety**
 - Nation's #1 weather-related killer
 - Heat stroke is an emergency — call 911
 - Stay inside a cool ventilated place whenever possible
 - Restrict outdoor activities to early morning or evening
 - If you must be outside, wear loose-fitting, light clothing
 - Drink plenty of water and take frequent breaks
 - Frequently check on the young, elderly, and those with health conditions
 - Don't leave small children in vehicles