



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
LEADING BOLDLY, WORKING TOGETHER*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Joe Corl

Division Chief -Rockford Fire

June 22, 2011

Phone: (815) 987-5645

E-mail: Joe.Corl@rockfordil.gov

Lightning Safety Awareness Week

ROCKFORD, IL—The Rockford Fire Department is proud to partner with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and recognize June 19th - 25th as Lightning Safety Awareness Week.

According to IEMA, “Few people really understand the dangers of lightning. Many people don’t act promptly to protect their lives, property, and the lives of others. The first step in solving this potentially life threatening problem is through education”.

“This year alone, we have had two major fires in Rockford attributed to lightning strikes,” said Division Chief Joe Corl. “The Rockford Fire Department hopes that everyone heeds the lightning safety tips from IEMA to avoid any injury.”

IEMA Lightning Safety Tips

- Plan ahead!
- Watch the sky!
- Coaches and Officials need a safety plan!
- When thunder roars, go indoors!
- Get away from the water!

Lightning Facts

- Each year there are 750,000 cloud to ground lightning flashes in Illinois.
- Each year on average, 55 people are killed and 1,000 are injured by lightning strikes in the United States every year.
- One hundred people have been killed by lightning in Illinois in the past 50 years.
- Lightning results in an economic impact of about \$5 billion in the United States each year.

Additional information can be found at:

http://iema.illinois.gov/publications/pdf/Lightning_Safety_Awareness_Guidebook.pdf

###