

How Far Away Is Lightning From Me?

To estimate the distance between you and a lightning flash, use the "Flash to Bang" method: If you observe lightning, count the number of seconds until you hear thunder. Divide the number of seconds by five to get the distance in miles.

Example: If you see lightning and it takes 10 seconds before you hear the thunder, then the lightning is 2 miles away from you (10 divided by 5 = 2 miles).

If Thunder is heard	The Lightning is...
5 seconds after a Flash	1 mile away
10 seconds after a Flash	2 miles away
15 seconds after a Flash	3 miles away
20 seconds after a Flash	4 miles away
25 seconds after a Flash	5 miles away
30 seconds after a Flash	6 miles away
35 seconds after a Flash	7 miles away
40 seconds after a Flash	8 miles away

Get to a safe location if the time between the lightning flash and the rumble of thunder is 30 seconds or less.