

Storm Chase Safety and Ethics

Ensuring your safety is one of our top concerns. To make sure you are aware of issues regarding safe chasing practices, please read the following articles. Afterward, there will be a quiz on the most important issues. The quiz will be relatively easy and be focused on the most vital issues and a passing score will be 80%. However, you are responsible to read through all the information. I have included questions for you to answer on your own. This will help guide your reading.

Safety Rule #1 is to listen to the instructor at all times.

Storm Chase FAQ by Roger Edwards

<http://www.stormtrack.org/library/faq/#Safety>

According to Roger Edwards, and many others, the storm itself is the third greatest threat to safety. What are the first two?

What are a few after effects of being hit by lightning?

Gene Moore is an excellent and experienced chaser. What happened to him in 1981?

What is core punching and why is it not recommended?

Hail and strong winds can both limit visibility. How?

What kind of animals will pose a threat to your safety?

NOAA Lightning Safety

<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/outdoors.htm>

No place is ultimately safe from lightning. Name a few relatively safe places.

Most hard top vehicles are relatively protected from a lightning strike. When driving in our vans, what would threaten your safety if we were hit by lightning (something that has happened to us at least once?)

What is a bolt from the blue?

We are obviously in a dangerous place with respect to lightning. *This is part of your assumed risk.* However, if lightning hits and we hear thunder within five seconds, we will seek shelter in the vans. How far away is the lightning in this case?

When there is no safe place, avoid seeking shelter under a tree. Why is a lone tree (or actually one among a few) a bad place to be?

Stay away from tall objects. Why? What is the cone of protection?

Nearby fences (which are all over areas we chase) are dangerous. Why is that?

How far apart should people stand from each other to avoid lightning from traveling between two people?

Is seeking shelter underneath high tension wires a safe thing to do? (Find this answer in the reading!)

Storm Chase Safety by Chuck Doswell

<http://www.cimms.ou.edu/~doswell/Chasing2.html>

Standing water on the road is dangerous. Why?

What should you know about off road parking?

Are dirt roads problematic? (You would think we would have learned this lesson by now!)

What is Doswell's statement about rain that first develops with respect to lightning safety?

What is the Bear's Cage?

What is the rule about overpasses?

When is it advisable to outrun a tornado?

Storm Chase Ethics by Alan Moller

<http://www.cimms.ou.edu/~stumpf/cethics.html>

What is Moller's recommendation about driving through disaster areas?

What is the objective of a good chaser?