

About Hannah...

FULL NAME: HANNAH JOYCE MOWERY
AGE: 6
GRADE: 1ST
SIBLINGS: LEE (5); LAURA (3)
HOBBIES: BALLET, GIRL SCOUTS
CLIMBING TREES
FAVORITE FOOD(S): WATERMELON
CORN ON THE COB
FAVORITE COLOR: RED
FAVORITE MOVIE: THE LITTLE MERMAID
FAVORITE HOLIDAY: CHRISTMAS



Hannah Mowery (6) died when she was struck by lightning in October, 2000.

A Father's Story...

A Message To Parents:

As Hannah's father, my message is — it can happen to you. Although lightning striking humans is relatively rare, its devastating power should never be taken lightly. Initially, my wife and I were reluctant to participate in this project because we felt that I would not have reacted any differently even if I had been better informed. Upon further reflection, perhaps more alertness on my part could have prevented my child's death. It never occurred to me that my children were in any danger while playing in our garden on that sunny October evening. However, I had heard an earlier forecast of scattered thunderstorms in our area, and I did hear a distant rumble about thirty minutes before the accident. These two warning signs should have been enough to at least heighten my awareness of threatening weather. As dusk approaches, it is even more crucial to be watchful for darkening clouds and approaching storms. The only precaution that I had given my children was that we must go inside if it begins to rain. Unfortunately, I now know that rain does not always accompany lightning, and a single lightning bolt is all it takes.

Maybe I was not provided with enough warning, but most thunderstorms give us time to take preventative action. Too often we see threatening skies as an interruption to our outside activity. We just want to play a little longer or finish one last chore. We are usually more concerned with getting wet than being struck by lightning. Believe me, there are no towels to wipe away the effects of lightning. Please do not take any unnecessary chances when lives are at stake. We hope and pray that through education about lightning, others will not have to suffer the tragic loss of someone they love.

Sincerely,
Jay Mowery

Lightning Can Be A Real



Shock!

Preventing Lightning Strike Tragedies

For more information or to schedule a presentation engagement, please contact:



**American Trauma Society
Pennsylvania Division
6706 Carlisle Pike
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
(717) 766-1616**

The American Trauma Society PA Division



The American Trauma Society, PA Division, is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing serious injury and/or death due to trauma.

The ATS believes that lightning strike trauma prevention can be the outcome of a simple choice.

Between 1939-1994, over 13,000 people were either injured or killed by being struck by lightning and except for floods, on average, lightning causes more casualties annually in the United States than any other storm-related occurrence.

This educational brochure includes an introduction to lightning, safety guidelines to follow during a lightning storm, as well as a personal story of a father whose daughter was tragically struck by lightning.

It is the goal of the ATS to increase the public's awareness on the seriousness of lightning and to educate them about safety guidelines to follow to prevent a needless lightning tragedy.

This project is funded, in part, under a contract with the Pennsylvania Department of Health through an appropriation approved by the Pennsylvania Legislature.

Did You Know...?

Lightning is a **BIG** spark...static electricity on a **GIANT** scale.

Lightning's heat exceeds 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. That is three times hotter than the surface of the sun!

Lightning's speed is 90,000 miles per second (one hundred million feet per second).

The average thickness of a lightning bolt is 1-2 inches.

Once lightning strikes the ground, it can spread up to 60 feet across the surface of the ground.

Lightning strike-injured persons do not carry a charge and can be handled safely.

Many lightning strike deaths occur at the beginning and the end of the storm. Therefore, suspend activities and remain in safe shelter for 30 minutes after the last lightning bolt and thunder bang.

If someone you know is struck by lightning, call 911.

"If you can hear it, clear it and if you can see it, flee it."

Lightning Safety Guidelines:

Follow these to protect yourself!

IF OUTDOORS, FIND SAFE SHELTER

SAFE SHELTERS

- Substantial buildings (large, solid)
- Fully enclosed vehicle with windows closed

UNSAFE SHELTERS

- Underneath canopies, umbrellas
- Small picnic/rain shelters
- Underneath trees

IF YOU'RE UNABLE TO FIND SAFE SHELTER

- Crouch down (Put your feet together and crouch down. Pull your head down toward your knees and place your hands over your head. Do not lie flat on the ground, and do not get on your hands and knees).
- Avoid being near other people — crouch down AT LEAST 15 feet away from another person.

IF INDOORS

- Avoid water (do not bathe, wash dishes, etc.).
- Stay away from windows and doors (high winds can shatter windows).
- Do not use the telephone (lightning can strike through telephone wires).
- Unplug and stay away from electric appliances (computers, televisions, power tools, etc.).

OTHER SAFETY TIPS

- Avoid high ground (hills, mountains, etc.).
- Avoid open spaces (open fields).
- Avoid ALL metal objects (metal attracts lightning).