CITY OF HAMILTON - CORPORATE SAFETY GUIDELINE

DEVELOPED BY: CORPORATE WORKPLACE SAFETY SECTION Guideline # COH-RQ-GD-022
DATE: January 2002 APPROVED BY: Corporate Management Team

LIGHTNING SAFETY FOR OUT-DOOR WORKERS

IF YOU CAN SEE LIGHTNING OR HEAR THUNDER, ACTIVATE THIS SAFETY PLAN. RESUME ACTIVITIES ONLY WHEN LIGHTNING AND THUNDER HAVE NOT BEEN OBSERVED FOR THIRTY MINUTES.

Be prepared:

Preparedness can reduce the risk of the lightning hazard and raise safety levels. Lightning is a frequent weather hazard impacting outdoor recreation and work situations. Advance planning is the single most important means to achieve lightning safety. The following steps are suggested:

1. Designate a responsible person to monitor weather conditions. An inexpensive portable weather radio will provide regular weather condition updates.

2. Any Lightning Emergency Procedure should include, as a minimum: -- SUSPEND ACTIVITIES - EVACUATE PEOPLE - MONITOR CONDITIONS - RESUME ACTIVITIES. Identify safe and unsafe locations beforehand.

3. People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge and are safe to handle. Apply First Aid immediately, if you are qualified to do so. Get emergency help promptly.

SAFE AREAS INCLUDE:

a. Fully enclosed metal vehicles with windows up.
b. Substantial and permanent buildings.

UNSAFE AREAS INCLUDE:

a. Small structures including huts & rain shelters.
b. Nearby metallic objects like fences, gates, instrumentation and electrical equipment, wires, and power-poles.

c. Also—AVOID trees, AVOID water, AVOID open fields, AVOID using the (hard-wired) telephone and headsets.

**LIGHTNING SAFETY CROUCH:**

If hopelessly isolated from shelter during close-in lightning, adopt a low crouching position with feet together and hands on ears.

**Remember:**

"If you can see it (lightning), flee it; if you can hear it (thunder), clear it."