

# Indoor/Outdoor Swimming Pool Safety

**Lightning's behavior is random and unpredictable. We recommend a very conservative attitude towards it. Preparedness and quick responses are the best defenses towards the lightning hazard.**

Swimming pools are connected to a much larger surface area via underground water pipes, gas lines, electric and telephone wiring, etc. Lightning strikes to the ground anywhere on this metallic network may induce shocks elsewhere.

## **The National Lightning Safety Institute recommends the following swimming pool safety procedures:**

1. Designate a responsible person as the weather safety lookout. That person should keep an eye on the weather. Use a "weather radio" or the Weather Channel or other TV program to obtain good localized advanced weather information.
2. **When thunder and/or lightning are first noticed,** use the Flash-To-Bang (F-B) method to determine its' rough distance and speed. This technique measures the time from seeing lightning to hearing associated thunder. For each five seconds from F-B, lightning is one mile away. Thus, a F-B of 10 = 2 miles; 15 = 3 miles; 20 = 4 miles; etc. At a F-B count of thirty, the pool should be evacuated. People should be directed to safe shelter nearby.
3. **Pool activities should remain suspended until thirty minutes after the last thunder is heard.** The distance from Strike A to Strike B to Strike C can be some 5-8 miles away. And it can strike much farther away. Why take a chance with lightning?

**Teach this safety slogan:**

**"IF YOU CAN SEE IT, FLEE IT; IF YOU CAN HEAR IT, CLEAR IT."**