

WEATHER

1. Summer Weather Patterns. Summer in Texas is marked by the northward movement of the Bermuda High, the few frontal passages associated with the Polar Front Jet remain well to the north, keeping the region hot and humid. Most weather occurring in the season is associated with Gulf moisture, drylines and the "Marfa Front". In general, summer is dominated by high temperatures and isolated afternoon and evening thunderstorms. Average high temperatures are in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s. Extremes can range from 55F to 114F. Summer is also the rainy season. The season accounts for over 50% of the annual rainfall, which comes primarily in the form of thunderstorms. June is a relatively dry month followed by an increase of moisture in July and August. The peak for severe weather occurs from March through June and is most common in the afternoon and evening hours.

2. Fog. Fog is possible during May and increases into the fall. Fog restricts visibility and can impair a driver's road vision. It is most common from 0300 to 0800.

3. Soldier Risks. The summer weather can pose aviation challenges due to thunderstorms: strong gusty winds, turbulence, low ceilings, reduced visibilities, hail, icing, and gust fronts. The weather can hinder convoy or POV operations due to heavy rain and fog. Heavy winds and lightning storms may affect operations. Higher temperatures increase the chance of heat injuries.

4. Lightning Safety.

a. Plan evacuation and safety measures in the event of lightning. When you first see lightning or hear thunder, activate your emergency plan and go to a safe place.

(1) A safe place during lightning is inside a fully enclosed, substantial building or vehicle with a solid metal roof. Where possible, find shelter in a substantial building or in a fully enclosed vehicle such as a car, truck or van with the windows completely shut.

(2) Lightning often precedes rain; so do not wait for the rain to begin before suspending training or recreational activities. Use the 30/30 rule: if the time between the lightning and the thunder is 30 seconds or less, go to a safe shelter. Stay there until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder.

(3) If you are outdoors, avoid water; high ground; open spaces such as golf courses and sports fields; tall, isolated objects such as a tree or pole; metal objects, including electrical wires, fences, machinery, motors, power tools; and open structures. Unsafe places include under canopies, in small picnic or rain shelters and near trees. If lightning is striking nearby when you are outside, you should:

- Crouch down. Put feet together. Place hands over ears to minimize hearing damage from thunder.
- Avoid proximity (minimum of 15 feet) to other people.

(4) If you are indoors, avoid water. Stay away from doors and windows. Stay away from anything connected to power. Do not use the telephone. Take off headsets. Turn off, unplug and stay away from appliances, computers, power tools and television sets. Lightning may strike exterior electrical and telephone lines, which could give shocks to inside appliances.

(5) Suspend activities for 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder.

b. Injured persons do not carry an electrical charge and can be handled safely. Apply first aid to a lightning victim if you are qualified to do so. Call or send for help immediately. Know your emergency telephone contact numbers.

c. Teach this safety slogan: "If you can see it, flee it; if you can hear it, clear it."