



## **ZAP! Lightning Safety**

Thunderstorms and lightning are dangerous and should be taken seriously. If thunderstorms and lightning are occurring in your area, you should:

- Use your battery-operated NOAA weather radio for local updates.
- Avoid contact with corded phones and devices including those plugged into electricity for recharging. Cordless and wireless phones not connected to wall outlets are OK to use.
- Avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords. Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.
- Avoid contact with plumbing. Do not wash your hands, take a shower, wash dishes, or do laundry. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off the lanai.
- Do not lie on concrete floors and or against concrete walls.
- Avoid natural lightning rods such as a tall, isolated tree in an open area.
- Avoid hilltops, open fields, the beach or a boat on the water.
- Take shelter in a sturdy building. Avoid isolated sheds or other small structures in open areas.
- Avoid contact with anything metal—tractors, farm equipment, motorcycles, golf carts, golf clubs, and bicycles.

If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.