

FIRE FIGHTERS GUIDANCE NOTE # 6-8

ISSUE: FIRE FIGHTER SAFETY DURING LIGHTNING STORMS

(previously known as AERIAL LADDER OPERATIONS DURING LIGHTNING STORMS)

Fire Departments should develop SOPs/OGs that address fire operation safety during lightning storms.

Safety issues to consider are:

- When to raise or lower aerial apparatus, lighting masts and ground ladders;
- When to begin or cease roof operations;
- Moving pump operators off the ground onto the pump operator step or to the inside of the fire apparatus;
- Staging the rapid intervention team inside a fire apparatus or a building; and
- Staging all personnel not on active assignment inside a fire apparatus or a building and committing the minimum number of personnel to complete outside assignments.

Fire Departments should develop a method to inform the Incident Commander of actual or potential lightning strikes in the vicinity of an incident; this information will assist the Incident Commander in conducting a risk management analysis on scene. An option for providing this information is to monitor Environment Canada's Lightning Detection website.

Note: Lightning storms normally last 30 minutes and lightning strikes can occur within 16 km of a storm.