OFFICE OF THE ENGINER-IN-CHIEF(AW),
I&CAD DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA,
1st FLOOR, JALASOUDHA, ERRUMANZIL, HYDERABAD-82.

Dt.16-08-2019.
Copy communicated to all the Engineers-in-Chief, Chief Engineers and 
Superintending Engineers of I&CAD Department, for favour of information and taking 
necessary action.

B.Nagendra Rao
Engineer-in-Chief(AW)

To,

All the Engineers-in-Chief,
Chief Engineers &
Superintending Engineers of
I&CAD Department,
Government of Telangana.

Copy to the Dy.Executive Engineer(C), to place in Irrigation website.
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
IRRIGATION & CAD (GENERAL) DEPARTMENT

Dated: 03-08-2019

Sub: Irrigation & CAD Department – Preparedness on likely situations of intense Thunderstorm and Lightning in States in view of present Monsoon Season – Dissemination of DO’s and Don’t’s – Reg.


A copy of the reference cited together with its enclosures is herewith sent to the Engineer-in-Chief (AW), Irrigation & CAD Department, Hyderabad, Engineer-in-Chief (Irrigation), Irrigation & CAD Department, Hyderabad and Director, Ground Water Department, Hyderabad for taking necessary further action in the matter.

N. SHANKAR
ADDITIONAL SECRTARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Engineer-in-Chief (AW), Irrigation & CAD Department, Hyderabad (w.e.).
The Engineer-in-Chief (Irrigation), Irrigation & CAD Dept., Hyderabad (w.e.).
The Director, Ground Water Department, Chintalbasthi, Kharitabad, Hyderabad (w.e.).

Copy to the file.

// FORWARDED :: :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER

Dear Sri Somesh Kumar,

Sub: Revenue(DM)Dept.- Preparedness on likely situations of intense Thunderstorm and Lightning in States/UTs in view of present Monsoon Season-Disposition of Do’s and Don’t’s – Reg.

Ref: From the Deputy Secretary to Government, National Disaster Management Authority, Policy & Plan Division, NDMA Bhawan, New Delhi, Lr.No.1-106/2019-PP, Dt:05.07.2019.

*****

I invite your kind attention to the subject and reference cited (copy enclosed). It is to inform that Lightning start with pre-monsoon and is followed by intense lightning and thunderstorm during the South West Monsoon. In previous years, 35-40% of total lightning deaths in a year take place during June-July. Since, the monsoon is delayed in 2019, the next fortnight is expected to be very critical.

2. Further it is to inform that the National Disaster Management Authority has issued Advisories, awareness generation activities and Do’s and Don’ts relating to Thunderstorm and Lightning, to help States, to be better prepared. A set of the same is being sent herewith for wider dissemination and awareness generation activities, which can be used to ensure better and timely preparedness against Thunderstorm and Lightning, in the present monsoon season.

3. In this connection it is requested to take necessary action as per the advisory action points mentioned in roadmap and widely disseminate the Do’s & Don’ts on Thunderstorm and Lightning and also inform to National Disaster Management Authority about the status of preparedness on both, duly marking copy to Government.

With best Wishes,

Yours Sincerely

(RAJESHWAR TIWARI)

Sri Somesh Kumar, IAS,
Special Chief Secretary to Government,
Irrigation & CAD Department.
Telangana Secretariat.
F. No.1-106/2019-PP  
Dated: 05.07.2019  

To  
Secretary Incharge of Disaster Management of all States / UTs  
(as per list attached)  

Subject: Preparedness on likely situations of intense Thunderstorm and Lightning in States / UTs in view of forthcoming Monsoon season – reg.  

Sir,  

Lightning in India start with pre-monsoon and is followed by intense lightning and thunderstorm during the South West monsoon. The studies of last 40 years have shown that 35-40% of total lightning deaths in a year take place during June – July. Since, the monsoon is delayed in 2019, the next fortnight is expected to be very critical. There is a need to be prepared for Thunderstorm and Lightning in different parts of the country.  

2. NDMA has issued Guidelines for “Preparation of Action Plan – Prevention and management of Thunderstorm & Lightning / Squall / Dust/ Hailstorm and Strong Winds” in 2019, entailing roles and responsibilities of States/UTs and other agencies to be better prepared for any eventuality caused by intense Thunderstorm and Lightning. These guidelines will help develop measures for the assessment, forecast, preparedness and mitigation through coordinated efforts with multiple agencies and undertake reconstruction as an opportunity to build disaster resilient infrastructure. The guidelines may be implemented in letter and spirit.  

3. NDMA has also prepared Advisories, awareness generation activities and Dos & Don’ts to help States / UTs to be better prepared. A set of the same is being enclosed herewith for reference and necessary actions. States UTs may also refer to action points prescribed in the NDMA Guidelines as mentioned above, which was also circulated by NDMA vide letter no. 16/2/2018-RR(pt.I) dated 21.06.2019, for the timely compliance of the same, which will help in making States/UTs better prepared. The guidelines can also be accessed on the website of NDMA (www.ndma.gov.in) in English and Hindi languages.  

4. It is requested to kindly take necessary actions as per enclosed advisories, carry out awareness generation activities and widely disseminate the Do’s & Don’ts on Thunderstorm and Lightning. It is also requested to update NDMA about the status of preparedness on Lightning & Thunderstorm at the earliest.  

Yours faithfully,  

05/7/19  
(Alice Kujur)  
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India  
(policyplan@ndma.gov.in)  

Enclosures: as above
Advisories for Thunderstorm & Lightning

Lightning in India start with Pre-monsoon during March / April and followed by intense lightning and thunderstorm during the South West monsoon. It is also pertinent to mention that lightning generally takes place during second half of the day in late afternoon or evening. The pre/early-monsoon deaths are very high in India. The studies of last 40 years have shown that 35-40% of total lightning deaths in year take place during June - July. Since the monsoon is delayed in 2019, the next fortnight is expected to be very critical. Therefore, It is advised to take appropriate measures as below:

- State governments should update and customize the State Action Plan and ensure its implementation of the plan along with inter-agency coordination
- Action Plan of the State may be circulated to all Collectors & HoDs. Instructions may be issued to line Departments concerned and the District Collectors for implementation.
- Implement assessment, preparedness and mitigation measures and prepare detailed department-wise SOPs
- Identify vulnerable places and protect public property/infrastructure from damage from Thunderstorm and Lightning
- Review and update precautionary measures and procedures
- Promote installation of lightning conductors / arresters in schools, industries, public and private buildings or local innovative techniques
- Create a network of community-based early warning systems
- Dissemination of specific early warning information to the public through print/electronic/social and other mass media like SMS, Whatsapp at the local level
- Set up alternative or emergency communication systems and Ensure early restoration of electricity supply to essential services during emergencies and restoration of electricity supply at the earliest
- Ensure quick restoration of road connectivity and access to vulnerable areas
- Disseminate Do's and Don'ts for general public and enable them to access safe places
- Extensive IEC campaigns to generate public awareness through print, electronic and social media
Awareness generation Activities

Awareness campaigns should be carried out based on communication strategy and research insights. IEC activities should be planned at national, State and local levels.

A. State level:

- Mass awareness campaigns involving Print, TV, Radio, Social Media, etc in local languages;
- Special list of Do's and Don'ts and safety tips for weaker and vulnerable sections of society (e.g. women, children, poor, elderly and differently abled);
- Special list of Do's and Don'ts for animal and livestock safety;
- Encourage line departments of the State Governments and local authorities to widely disseminate Do's and Don'ts.
- Develop media and communication strategies and plans considering local socio-economic and behavioural factors;
- Involve recognised artists of the State, such as folk singers, dancers, and other performers for stronger recall value;
- Conduct regular awareness programmes in all districts;
- Conduct regular training programmes for inter-personal communication activities.

B. Local level: The local authorities, due to their proximity to the affected population, are in the best position to ensure the last mile delivery of messages. They may –

- Conduct regular inter-personal communication activities;
- Demonstrate the safety tips to the vulnerable population in their local language, using local customs, cultural aspects and behaviour patterns; Local artists and art forms may be utilized for entertainment-based education programmes; Extensive use of IEC tools and materials (such as flyers, calendars, comic books, etc.) should be made available for people for reference;
- Strengthen and involve local communities such as RWAs, Municipal bodies, NGOs, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Anganwadis, Gram sabhas, Medical professionals and other local bodies;
- Give special emphasis to dissemination in locations of "closed homogeneous groups" such as schools, colleges, offices, cinemas, etc.
- Carry out Out-of-Home campaigns using banners, posters, billboards, etc.
- Carry out special awareness programmes for the differently abled.
Thunderstorm & Lightning: Do's and Don'ts

If at home or work

Do's
- Look for darkening skies and increased wind.
- If you hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning.
- Keep monitoring local media for updates and warning instructions.
- Stay indoors and avoid travel if possible.
- Close windows and doors, and secure objects outside your home (e.g. furniture, bins, etc.).
- Ensure that children and animals are inside.
- Unplug unnecessary electrical appliances (to isolate them from the main power supply which may conduct a power surge during a lightning storm).
- Remove tree timber or any other debris that may cause a flying accident.

Don'ts
- Avoid taking a bath or a shower, and stay away from running water. This is because lightning can travel along metal pipes.
- Keep away from doors, windows, fireplaces, stoves, bathtubs, or any other electrical conductors.
- Avoid using corded phones and other electrical equipment that can conduct lightning.

If Outdoor - Do's and Don'ts

- Go to safe shelter immediately – avoid metal structures and constructions with metal sheeting.
- Ideally, find shelter in a low-lying area and make sure that the spot chosen is not likely to flood.
- Crouch down with feet together and head down to make yourself a smaller target.
- Hair standing up on the back of your neck could indicate that lightning is imminent.
- Do not lie flat on the ground; this will make a bigger target.
- Keep away from all utility lines (phone, power, etc.), metal fences, trees, and hilltops.
- Do not take shelter under trees as these conduct electricity.
- Rubber-soled shoes and car tyres do not offer protection from lightning.
If travelling Do's and Don'ts

- Get off bicycles, motorcycles or farm vehicles that may attract lightning.
- Get to a safe shelter.
- If boating or swimming, get to land as quickly as possible and take shelter.
- During a storm, remain in your vehicle until help arrives or the storm has passed (the metal roof will provide protection if you are not touching metal inside); windows should be up; park away from trees and power lines.

Treatment

- Take the person who is struck by lightning to a hospital.
- If possible, give basic First Aid.
- People struck by lightning carry no electrical charge and can be handled safely.
- Check for broken bones, loss of hearing and eyesight.
- A victim of a lightning strike can suffer varying degrees of burn. Check the impact point and where the electricity left the body for injury marks.

Note: States may customize the contents of the Do's and Don'ts for their own use depending on their local experiences and best practices. Further action needs to be undertaken by respective State Governments.