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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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Authority on Meteorology.

SAFE PLACES IN THUNDERSTORMS

Now that the beginning of the lightning season is near, the question of safe and unsafe places during thunderstorms is in order. The following hints on the subject were supplied by Dr. Humphreys, of the U.S. Weather Bureau, for the information of Boy Scouts, but they are just as valuable to other people:

"During a thunderstorm it is dangerous to be close beside a wire fence. In this position one may be killed or, at least, hurt if the fence is struck anywhere along its entire course. It is also dangerous to take shelter during a thunderstorm under a tall tree, or indeed a tree of any kind if it is out in the open, and all the more so if it is at or near the top of a hill. It is advisable to keep away from the top of a hill during a thunderstorm even if some distance from trees.

"If Scouts on a hike should happen to be inside a cave during a thunderstorm they would be absolutely safe from the lightning. Another perfectly safe place to be is inside a frame structure of steel, or an all-metal building of any kind. One is tolerably safe also at or near the bottom of a deep narrow ravine or canyon. Properly installed lightning-rods make a house fairly safe during electrical storms and as a rule one is safer in a house even if it has no rods at all, than one is likely to be outdoors. It is best indoors to keep away from stoves, fireplaces, and walls."

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