

For Release
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By Major A.H. Thiessen
Science Service Meteorologist

Induced effects of lightning! If a person touches a wire fence or a wire clothesline just after a flash and especially before rain has fallen, he may form a discharge path for the electricity to the ground and be severely shocked. The Bureau of Standards describes a specific case. A wire clothesline supported by dry wooden posts would have accumulated, immediately after a flash, a charge whose voltage to ground would be about 30,000 volts. This charge is not the result of the wire being hit, but was induced by lightning at some distance from the wire line. The same results would be produced also on wire fences and ungrounded downspouts. Keep away from them.
