



# THUNDERSTORMS & LIGHTNING

surface, and lightning strikes the earth 100 times each second.

Thunderstorms can bring heavy rains, flash flooding, tornadoes, strong winds, lightning, and hail.

Flash Floods/Floods are the number one killer associated with thunderstorms, resulting in nearly 140 fatalities a year.

Although thunderstorms in the northwest are less likely to spawn tornadoes than elsewhere in the United States, most wind-related damage caused by

rather than tornadic

a type of straight-line wind, can cause damage equivalent to a strong tornado.

Lightning occurs with all thunderstorms. Its electrical charge and intense heat can electrocute on contact, cause electrical failures, split trees, and ignite structure and brush fires.

Hail associated with thunderstorms can be smaf1 sP #MCID 35>BDC q0.000008047be

## What is a severe thunderstorm?

A thunderstorm is considered **severe** if