

BACKCOUNTRY LIGHTNING RISK MANAGEMENT

No place outdoors is safe from lightning. Lightning is an objective hazard. Your behavior can reduce the risk of that hazard harming you.

TERRAIN LIGHTNING SAFETY HAZARDS

LOW SAFETY/
HIGH-RISK

Extremely dangerous: Avoid these areas if there are any signs of thunderstorms.

High-Risk: Leave these areas before a storm hits. Move through high-risk terrain quickly to reduce exposure time. High-risk areas include:

- On or near high terrain like peaks and ridges
- On or near tall objects like relatively taller trees
- On the windward side of mountains, where the storms come from
- On boats, on open water, and near trees at the edge of open water

Least objectionable alternatives, but still much riskier than inside of modern buildings.

AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE

It is very safe inside a modern building if you avoid metal conductors.

Getting inside an enclosed metal-topped vehicle can avoid many lightning hazards.

