

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, lightning is one of the greatest storm-related killers in the United States, and in some years ranking with tornadoes and hurricanes in the number of deaths and injuries it causes; and

WHEREAS, lightning inflicts devastating life-long severe injuries on more people than it kills, and poses the greatest threat to those outdoors during a storm; and

WHEREAS, the majority of injuries and deaths from lightning strikes could be prevented if people followed the simple rule “**When thunder roars, go indoors;**” and

WHEREAS, insured losses related to damage from lightning strikes to homes topped \$1 billion in the United States for the first time in 2008, with losses continuing to climb annually, and the average lightning claim costs a homeowner over \$4,800; and

WHEREAS, the key to understanding the dangers of lightning is through awareness, education and mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the state of Florida is especially lightning prone, averaging nearly 3 million lightning flashes per year, and ranks number one in the number of deaths due to lightning, ninety-four percent of which occur between late May and end of September, and the Tampa Bay area is recognized as the “Lightning Capital of North America;” and

WHEREAS, annually the National Weather Service dedicates the last full week in June to Lightning Safety Awareness in order to increase our knowledge of the dangers of lightning and how to better protect us from the harmful effects of lightning strikes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim June 24-30, 2012, as

“LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK”

in the City of Tampa, Florida and call upon all citizens, government agencies, and civic organizations to acquaint themselves with the dangers of lightning and to take the appropriate actions to minimize risk of death, injury, and loss that lightning causes.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 21st day of June, 2012.



City of
Tampa
Florida

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor