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PRESS RELEASE

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**L.A. COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ISSUES
THUNDERSTORM AND LIGHTNING SAFETY TIPS**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) Los Angeles/Oxnard office has issued a Hazardous Weather Outlook forecasting slight chance of thunderstorms and lightning scheduled to arrive later this afternoon and early evening across the Los Angeles County mountain and Antelope Valley areas. This weather condition will also continue to exist for Saturday and Sunday.

All thunderstorms are dangerous and produce lightning. Over the past 30 years, lightning continues to be one of the top three storm-related killers in the United States. The following are some thunderstorm and lightning safety tips:

- Unplug any electronic equipment well before the storm arrives.
- If you hear thunder, then lightning is close enough to strike you, and you should move to a safe shelter: a substantial building (office building, school and home offer good protection). Once inside, stay away from windows, doors, and anything that conducts electricity such as corded telephones, computers and other equipment.
- Remember, rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide no protection from lightning. However, the steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal.
- Electrical charges can linger in clouds after a thunderstorm has passed; experts recommend that people should wait at least 30 minutes after the storm before resuming activities. Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.).

For additional information, please go to <http://www.ready.gov/thunderstorms-lightning>.

Los Angeles County residents and businesses, including persons with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, may call 211 LA County for emergency preparedness information, and other referral services. The toll-free 2-1-1 number is available 24 hours a day and seven days a week. 211 LA County services can also be accessed at <http://211la.org>.

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