

A Lightning Tutorial: Six Basic Ideas

Dr. Glenn Schmieg

Lightning is a common but often misunderstood natural phenomenon. In the spirit of the Friendly Society, this paper will include a broad and basic introduction to lightning. Beginning with the concepts of charge and current, the basic physics of a stroke will be outlined. Damage to trees, people, and electronics will be related to prevention with a Benjamin Franklin lightning rod. Included will be a discussion of many myths and misconceptions concerning the atmospheric occurrence.