

Florida Has Most Lethal Lightning, Study Finds

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FLORIDA had more fatalities due to lightning strikes over the past 24 years than any other state, a study reveals.

The National Weather Service has compiled statistics showing that 2,430 Americans were killed by lightning between 1959 and 1982, with fatalities occurring in 48 states.

Only Hawaii and Alaska were free of lightning deaths during that 24-year stretch.

Here is a state-by-state roundup of lightning deaths from 1959 to 1982:

Alabama, 61; Alaska, 0; Arizona, 35; Arkansas, 90; California, 12; Colorado, 64; Connecticut, 12; Delaware, 8; District of Columbia, 3; Florida, 235; Georgia, 59; Hawaii, 0; Idaho, 18;

Illinois, 63; Indiana, 62; Iowa, 54; Kansas, 40; Kentucky, 59; Louisiana, 90;

Maine, 16; Maryland, 99; Massachusetts, 19; Michigan, 68; Minnesota, 37; Mississippi, 66; Missouri, 67;

Montana, 18; Nebraska, 35; Nevada, 3; New Hampshire, 5; New Jersey, 44; New Mexico, 57; New York, 90; North Carolina, 125; North Dakota, 10; Ohio, 89; Oklahoma, 71; Oregon, 4; Pennsylvania, 91;

Puerto Rico, 24; Rhode Island, 3; South Carolina, 58; South Dakota, 14; Tennessee, 89; Texas, 127; Utah, 15; Vermont, 13; West Virginia, 17; Wisconsin, 36; and Wyoming, 21. ■

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