

**APPENDIX F**  
**PROTECTION OF PERSONNEL AGAINST SEVERE WEATHER**

**1. GENERAL.** In the event a severe weather warning is issued, Camp Bullis Operations will disseminate the warning to all training facilities.

**2. LIGHTNING.** The hazard of lightning, accompanied by thunderstorms, is dangerous, particularly to troops in the field. The path is generally held to be unpredictable; however, through research much has been learned about its probabilities. Lightning is affected by air current; i.e., through open doors or windows. It usually strikes the highest point, such as trees or high open ground, nearest the center of electric disturbances and is attracted to solid masses, especially metal. With these principles in mind, it is possible to formulate the following safety precautions, which will tend to reduce the danger from lightning:

a. Avoid flat open fields or bare hilltops during the thunderstorm. Crouch with hands on thighs or over ears, thus reducing the "target height" and chances of being hit. Do not place hands on the ground. Cease outdoor training if lightning is within 5 statute miles.

b. Avoid single isolated trees or poles in large open spaces; or if in woods, avoid the highest trees.

c. Avoid large masses of isolated metal in open fields, such as mounted gun, field piece, vehicle, wire fence, etc., (EXCEPTION: Seek shelter inside a metal-roofed vehicle with the windows up).

d. If a group is unavoidably caught in a flat open space or bare hilltop, do not huddle together. Scatter, to reduce the attraction of a mass of bodies, and reduce the odds of being hurt or killed when lightning strikes.

e. Buildings will afford the best protection, particularly if grounded or if outer walls and roof surfaces are wet. Personnel in buildings should avoid standing under high chimneys, near outer walls, water pipes, and wiring.

f. Communications systems will be grounded properly and, unless tactical situation prohibits, lead-in wires to switchboards and telephones should be disconnected.

g. Do not hold conversations over telephones during severe electrical disturbances. Turn off field radios and move away from them.

h. Personnel in the field should refrain from lying underneath vehicles. The body becomes the path of an electrical charge from the truck to the ground. Get inside the vehicle if possible.

i. For prevention of injuries from lightning in maintenance activities, the following procedures and requirements will be strictly adhered to at all times when electrical storms are evident and prevailing in the immediate area where such work is to be accomplished:

(1) No person will be allowed to work on power lines, communication lines, towers, poles, or electrical devices of any type.

(2) Personnel will not perform maintenance of any type or remain in open fields, such as range target areas or any other area where a negative field exists which would attract lightning.

j. Many people hit by lightning have been saved by prompt and continued application of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. While a full charge will kill and burn, many people who are apparently dead from lightning strikes may have received only a portion of the full charge, and are temporarily stunned and paralyzed. Prompt mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and treatment for shock may restart their breathing, and thus save their lives. The patient should be evacuated as expeditiously as possible to the Brooke Army Medical Center. Air evacuation is available by notifying "Bullis Control," FM 34.20.

k. It is recognized that the frequency of thunderstorms in the Camp Bullis area is such as to make it impracticable to apply protective measures in every detail. However, protective measures should be instituted by instructors or others in charge of assembled groups in the event of severe thunderstorms. The final decision as to when, and if protective measures will be put into effect, must be made on the spot by the person in charge.

**3. HEAT.** Camp Bullis Operations will disseminate the WET BULB TEMPERATURE INDEX (WBGT) in compliance with the provisions of AR 40-5, Preventive Medicine. The WBGT can also be obtained by dialing (210) 295-7608 for an automated reading.

**4. COLD INJURY PREVENTION.** Prevention of cold injury is a command responsibility. Proper use of preventive measures will markedly reduce the incidence of cold injury. Dissemination of daily official weather forecast of wind and temperature during the cold season will assist unit commanders in planning daily operations. The wind chill chart in TB MED 81, Cold Injury (NAVMED P-5052-29/AFP 161-111), is important in evaluating weather information.