



Remembering Jacqui

On March 19, 2016 NOMAF lost our beloved volunteer Jacqui Stavis, a 27 year old Wesleyan College graduate who recently moved to New Orleans. She was killed during a thunderstorm by a lightning strike at the T-Bois Blues Festival in LaRose.

Read the news story [here](#).
[See the Fox8 Coverage Here](#)

Lightning is one of the top 2 causes of storm-related deaths in the USA

The National Weather Service reports that 48% and 62% of lightning fatalities were attributed to sport and recreation, respectively. Many of us recall the golfers killed in City Park who sought shelter under an oak tree.

LEARN MORE

THE GULF COAST: A LIGHTNING BELT



Ever wonder why thunder storms are so bad in the south? The Southeast's warm weather thunderstorms generate the USA's most fearsome lighting (and killer tornadoes). Warm air from the Gulf of Mexico collides with cooler air from the west, creating deafening thunderstorms. Within the colliding air currents, electrical charges build up

and often shoot toward the Earth in the form of lightning. Second only to Florida, Louisiana experiences 20.3 strikes per square mile and 942,128 strikes per year. Lightning in the state killed two people in the past two years. Louisiana is the 16th deadliest state for lightning, with nine deaths over the past 10 years.

Many musicians have become vocal about incidents when outdoor concert producers forced them to perform when lightening was too close for their safety.

Several narrowly escaped serious harm.



In memory of Jacqui, the National Weather Service's 1st lightning fatality of 2016, please heed the following safety precautions and share with your loved ones.





Lightning: 5 Keys to Protect Yourself

1. If you are a musician or festival worker, please make sure the stage manager explains the **lightning safety plan**.
2. **Remember: NO PLACE** outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!! If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
3. **Have a plan:** scope out the area you're in before inclement weather strikes - it helps if you know where to go before the crowds start running for cover:
4. When you hear thunder, immediately **move to safe shelter** (a substantial building with electricity or plumbing or an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle with windows up)
5. **Stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes** after you hear the last sound of thunder.

Outdoor Festival Risk Reduction Tips

If you are caught outside **with no safe shelter anywhere nearby** the following actions *may* reduce your risk:

- Immediately leave stages and avoid elevated areas including seating areas, hills, porches and rooftops.
- Never lie flat on the ground
- Never stand under an isolated tree
- Immediately get out and away from ponds, lagoons, bayous, lakes and rivers and any standing water.
- Stay away from all objects that conduct electricity (power lines, speaker cables, mics, and metal fencing and barricades.)

Indoor Lightning Safety

- Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.
- Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.

source: <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/tips.shtml>