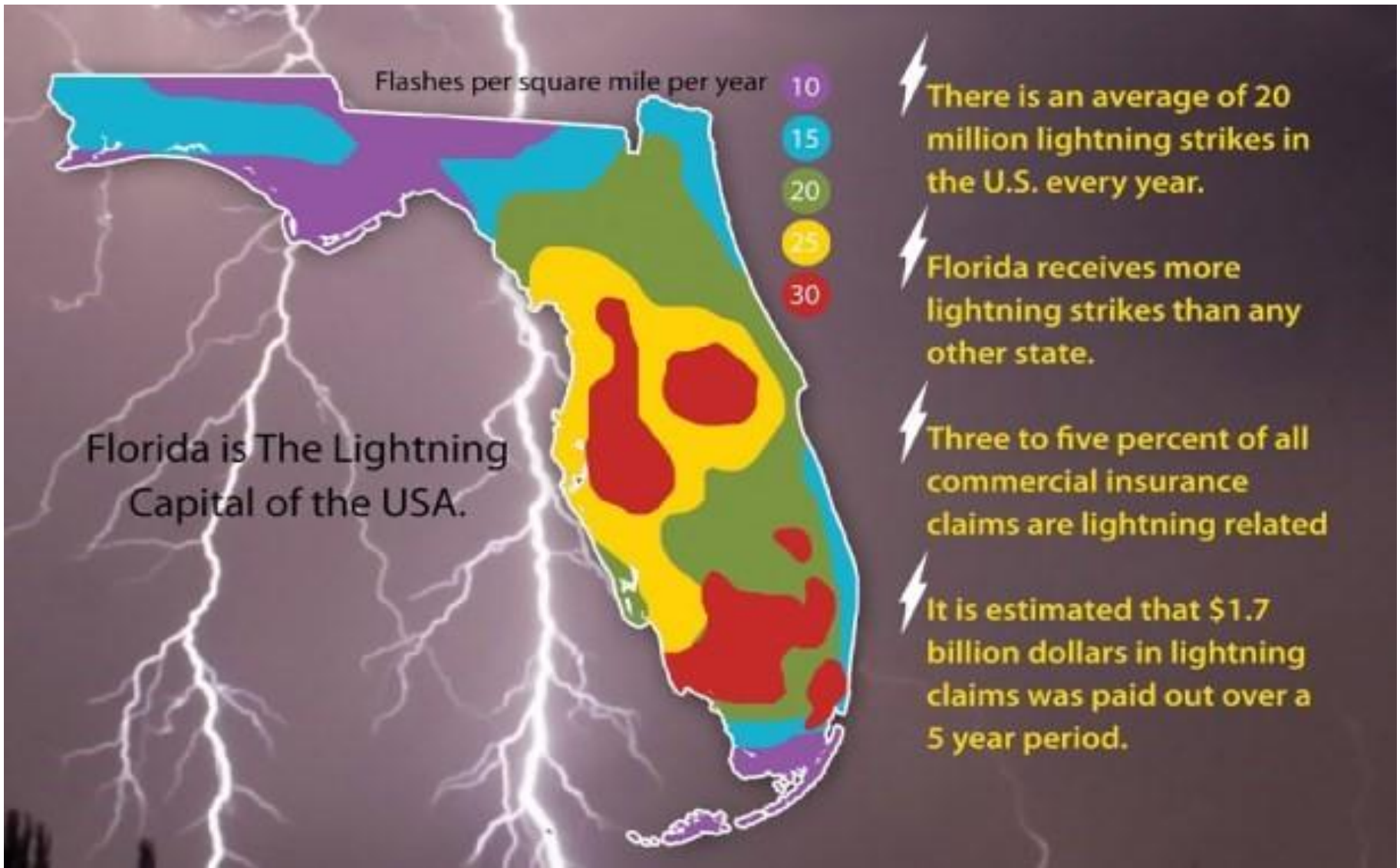


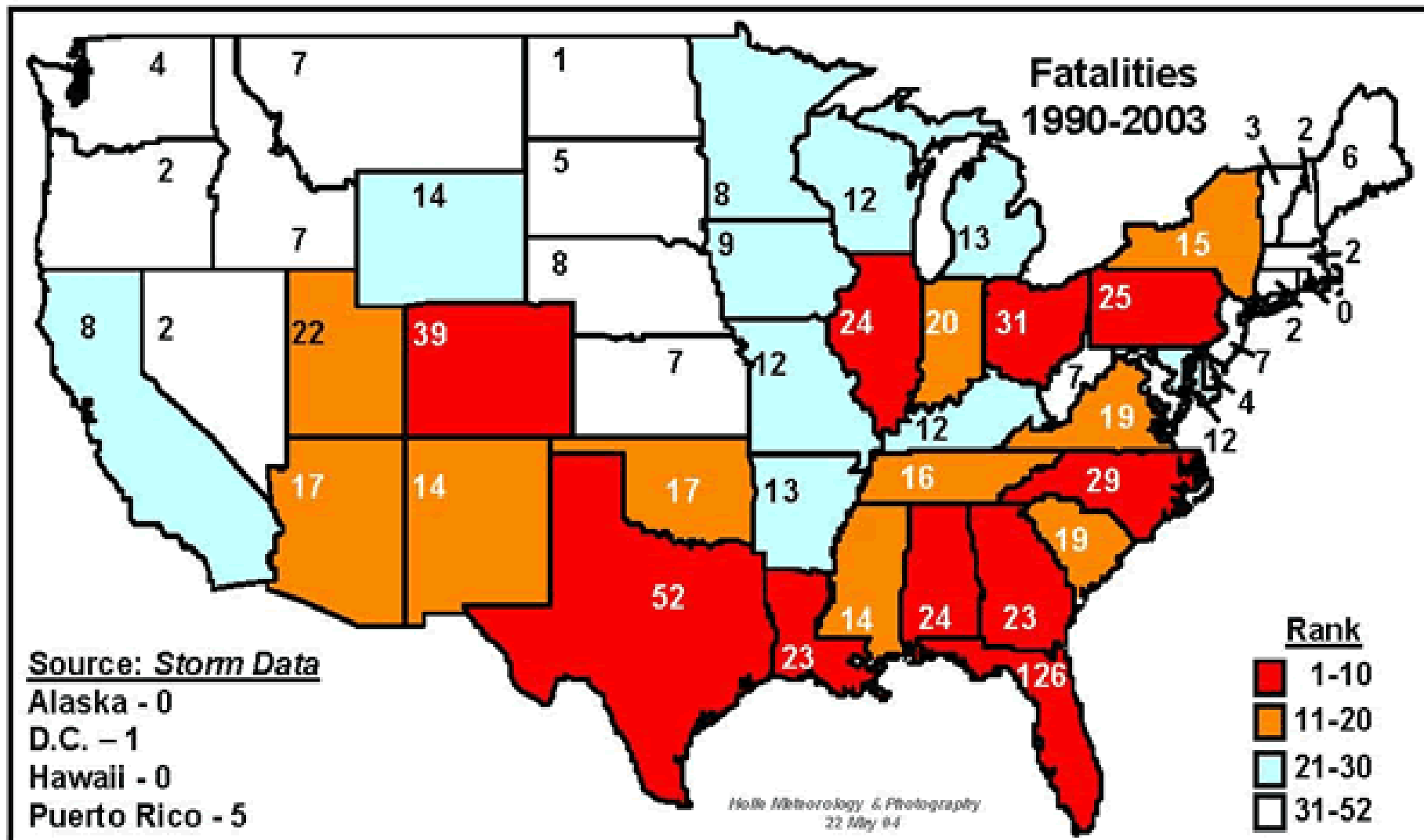


LIGHTNING SAFETY

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LIGHTNING SAFETY

Lightning is a giant spark of electricity in the atmosphere between clouds or between a cloud and the ground. It is a dangerous natural force.

Lightning strikes can severely injure or kill workers whose jobs involve working outdoors.



- Lightning can cause injuries in several ways:
 - Direct Strike: Victims may sustain a direct strike, which is often fatal.
 - Contact Injury: Occurs when lightning strikes an object the victim is touching.
 - Side Flash: Occurs when lightning splashes or bounces off an object onto the victim.
 - Ground Current: Occurs when lightning strikes the ground near a victim and the ground current passes from the strike point through the ground into the victim.
 - Streamer: Bursts of energy can come up from objects near the ground; sometimes these streamers travel through people.
 - Blast Injury: An injury from lightning's blast effect, or thunder.

LIGHTNING SAFETY



Lightning injuries include heart attacks, blunt trauma, temporary neurological syndromes, muscle injuries, eye injuries, skin lesions, and burns.



LIGHTNING SAFETY



Jobs that could potentially expose workers to lightning include:

- Logging
- Explosives handling or storage
- Heavy equipment operation
- Construction
- Plumbing and pipe fitting

LIGHTNING SAFETY



Workers whose jobs involve working outdoors in open spaces, near tall objects, or on or near explosives or conductive materials are more likely to be exposed to lightning.



LIGHTNING SAFETY



When working outdoors, supervisors and workers should continuously monitor weather conditions.

Lightning is unpredictable and can strike outside the heaviest rainfall areas or up to 10 miles from any rainfall.



LIGHTNING SAFETY

If signs of approaching thunderstorms occur, workers should not begin any task they cannot quickly stop.

Companies and supervisors should know and tell workers which buildings to go to if they hear thunder or see lightning.



LIGHTNING SAFETY



NOAA recommends seeking out fully enclosed buildings with electrical wiring and plumbing. If safe building structures are not accessible, companies should guide workers to hard-top

Remain in the shelter or vehicle for at least 30 minutes after hearing the last sound of thunder. Remain in vehicles with rolled up windows.



Do not shelter in sheds, pavilions, tents, or covered porches. They do not provide enough protection.



If you see someone get struck by lightning, immediately call 911 for help.

Safe practices if you are caught outside during a thunderstorm include:

- Seek shelter immediately
- Do not lie on the ground or under a tree
- Avoid open fields
- Retreat to low-lying areas like valleys and ditches; watch for flooding
- Stay away from all metal objects, equipment, and surfaces that can conduct electricity