Page 10

Thursday, August 7, 1969

Lightning Fallacies Are Investigated

Is lightning hot or cold? What are some of the common fallacies about lightning? Where are you safest during an electrical storm? These are a few of the questions about lightning that should be of interest to all homeowners.

A bolt of lightning may be either hot or cold. A hot strike last up to one-tenth of a second, is highly charged and sets fire to inflammable materials in its path. A cold strike is faster than a hot strike and has an explosive rather than flammatory effect. There are about twice as many cold strikes to ground objects as hot strikes.

Because of the powerful charge in a bolt of lightning (as high as 100,000,000 volts) and its erratic behavior, there has always been much confusion surrounding this phenomenon. Like lightning never strikes twice in the same place. The fact is that the Empire State Building in New York City is hit as many as 40 times a year.

Will a grounded television antenna provide protection for my family and my house? Does metal siding make a building more attractive to lightning?

A grounded television antenna will not protect you and your house. Even if properly grounded, antennas provide only partial protection. The aerial must be tied into a conventional protection system to be effective.

The type of house covering makes little difference. The important thing is to have the home protected by an approved arresting system. Where are the safest places

during electrical storms? The safest places during electrical storms are about in this order: a building with complete lightning protection; a continuous steel frame structure, properly grounded; on an ocean-going ship; a large closed boat; in an airplane; or in a closed automobile.

If your house has no protection, the safest place is in the middle of a room away from all metal objects. Avoid using the phone; don't stand in an open doorway, open window or at the kitchen sink.

The source of my information about lightning comes from a booklet prepared by "The Lightning Protection Institute," 2 North Riverside Plaza, Chicago, Ill. 60606.

I have given the essentials but you may wish to have more detailed information. If so, write the Institute for the booklet mentioned.

Sees U.S. Movie

Moscow - The official American entry in the Moscow International Film Festival was Stanly Kubrick's "2100-A Space Odyssey." The television industry showed the career of former President John F. Kennedy. President Nixon sent a message to the festival saying "great cinematic art can be a great teacher."



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TOP SESSION: Rochester (N.Y.) police sergeant Don Williams confers with members of Teens on Patrol, (TOP). Some 100 TOPs work with police on playgrounds, parks. Program, in its third summer, is funded through an Eastman Kodak grant to Rochester Jobs, Inc.

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Page 10

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