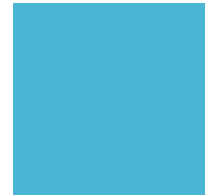
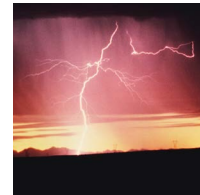




LIGHTNING



Lightning events are generated by atmospheric imbalance and turbulence due to a combination of conditions. Lightning, which occurs during all thunderstorms, can strike anywhere. Generated by the buildup of charged ions in a thundercloud, the discharge of a lightning bolt interacts with the best conducting object or surface on the ground.

HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

Federal databases identified seven significant lightning events in Howard County between 1994 and 2006. However, it is likely that additional events outside this period were not captured in the database.

WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

There is an expected **1-30% Annual Likelihood** of a lightning hazard in Howard County. In the most likely lightning scenario, the **Total Impact is considered Limited**. In the worst-case scenario, the **Total Impact is considered Significant**.

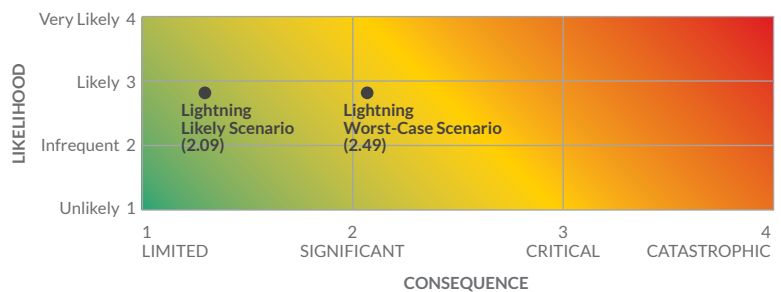
DID YOU KNOW?

- The lightning event causing extensive property damage in Howard County occurred on August 3, 2002, when the County was hit with over 1000 lightning strikes and suffered more than \$800,000 in property damage.
- The air in the channel of a lightning strike reaches temperatures higher than 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment readyhoco.com/hazards
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration spc.noaa.gov
- Ready.gov ready.gov/severe-weather

RISK MATRIX



LOCAL RISK OVERVIEW		
Future Likelihood	Likely-Very Likely 11-30+% chance of annual occurrence	
Impact	MOST-LIKELY	WORST-CASE
	Limited	Significant
Risk Score	2.09	2.49
Risk Ranking (High to Low)	Ranked #6 of 10 natural hazards.	

LIGHTNING IMPACT

Where no Worst-Case bar is visible, Worst-Case impact is equivalent to Likely Impact

