

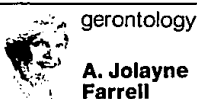
Golfers should know all about lightning

Dear Jo:

My husband and I have become avid golfers since we retired. We golf almost everyday — weather permitting. Last week we got caught out in a terrible lightning and thunder storm and debated as to where the safest place was to take cover. Would you please address this subject in your column?

Mrs. F.C.
Border City Reader

Dear Mrs. C.:
Lightning is a fantastic display of nature's power, but it's also a deadly killer. Places where people are killed most often by lightning are in open fields, followed by under trees, on or near water, near tractors and heavy equipment, on golf courses and on telephones.



gerontology

A. Jolayne Farrell

As a general rule, when a thunderstorm threatens, one should take shelter in a home or a large building. Isolated structures in an open area should be avoided. Do not use the telephones or take a bath or shower. Cars (not convertibles) generally are considered safe.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recommends the following thunderstorm precau-

tions that can be helpful to people of all ages.

While golfing, or any other time that you are caught outside and can not reach shelter, follow these rules:

• Never stand under a tall, isolated tree in an open area. It will act as a natural lightning rod.

• Avoid being the tallest object on the landscape. This could happen if you are on half course, in an open

field, on a beach, in a boat, or standing on a hilltop.

• Get out of and away from open water.

• Keep away from tractors and other metal equipment.

• Stay away from golf carts, motorcycles, scooters and bicycles. Put down your golf clubs.

• Avoid metallic pathways (wire fences, clotheslines, pipes and metal rails) as they are able to carry elec-

tricity to you from some distance away.

• In wooded area, find shelter in a low area under a thick growth of small trees. In the open, go to a low place such as a ravine or valley.

If you are hopelessly isolated and feel your hair stand on end, it means that lightning could strike any second. Drop to your knees, bend forward and place both hands just above your knees. Do not lie flat on

the ground. Stay in this position until the emergency passes.

Mrs. C., I hope these tips will be helpful to you and your husband. Probably the best way for golfers to handle thunderstorms (other than becoming fair weather golfers) is to leave the course when the weather is threatening.

Readers can write to Jolayne Farrell at 11 Cynthia Crescent, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4E 2P8.

Insurance plan may save millions

(AP) — A major overhaul of Michigan's unemployment insurance system could save taxpayers up to \$12 million a year while benefiting both employers and laid-off workers, state officials say.

The 15-point plan announced recently capped a study of the jobs benefits program launched last spring by Gov. James Blanchard. Parts of it now face House approval.

Labor Director Elizabeth Howe said consolidating anti-fraud operations would help the state recover an estimated \$4 million a year in losses from fraud generated by individuals and businesses.

Streamlining other parts of the system could save another \$8 million

a year while sparing jobless workers time and aggravation, Howe said. "We can't afford not to do this," Howe said at the Livonia branch of the Michigan Employment Security Commission, where dozens of jobless people waited in line to receive their checks.

"We're going to change the statute so collusion between employers and employees is eliminated. We want to put some real teeth into the law," she said.

Under the plan, \$16 million will be returned to businesses who paid a solvency tax that was used to buy a now-faulty multimillion-dollar MESC computer.

The plan also would:

• Create a wage reporting system using pay documents supplied by employers to verify the job status of employees before paying them benefits.

• Eliminate current penalties that force growing businesses to pay higher unemployment insurance rates.

• Require future MESC directors to be appointed by the governor.

• Establish a customer service office with a goal of a 72-hour response on problems.

• Make application forms more understandable.

No staff layoffs were expected during the 12-month streamlining project, Howe said.

Commerce Director Doug Ross said the plan was drafted following interviews with 650 Michigan employers and 92,000 jobless people receiving benefits over the past two years.

"We want to make sure this is the fairest, most efficient welfare program in the United States," he said.

Howe said the plan would help prevent scandals like the one involving Kinross Corp., an Upper Peninsula defense contractor under investigation for allegedly paying some employees reduced wages while allowing them to receive jobless benefits.

The plan will be financed with money returned to the state from federal business taxes, she said.

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- Natuzzi 2-piece J-sectional with left arm and curved corner in taupe, was \$2700, now \$968
- Natuzzi swivel chair, was \$995, now \$398
- Emerson leather & exposed wood chair, was \$1050, now \$459
- Natuzzi loveseat in beige, was \$2099, now \$777
- Natuzzi loveseat in tan, was \$1540, now \$595

Bedroom Furniture & Bedding

- White Lacquer 6-piece bedroom, was \$3009, now \$1795
- Simmons Maxi-Pedic Queen. Our truckload purchase saves you money! Was \$735, now \$369

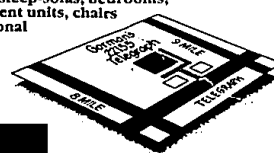
Dining Room & Dinette Furniture

- White Lacquer dining room includes table, 6 chairs & china, was \$5129, now \$2995
- Rattan dining set includes glass-top table, and 4 chairs, was \$1000, now \$595
- Glass & Brass dinette, was \$1052, now \$595
- Butcher Block table, was \$379, now \$155

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