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# The Palm Beach Post

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Updated: 5:41 p.m. Tuesday, June 11, 2013 | Posted: 12:08 p.m. Tuesday, June 11, 2013

## Man says he was struck by lightning, taken to Wellington hospital

By Alexandra Seltzer

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

A man was taken to a local hospital this afternoon after he was indirectly hit by lightning in Wellington, a Palm Beach County Fire Rescue spokesman said.

The man was in the 14000 block of Greenbriar Boulevard near Pierson Road and west of State Road 7 in Wellington around 11:30 a.m. when the lightning struck, he reported to authorities. The man, whose name was not released, was taken to Wellington Regional Medical Center with non life-threatening injuries.

While a fire rescue spokesman could not comment about the man's injuries, he said typically a person struck directly or indirectly by lightning could feel a tingling sensation in the body or numbness.

Around that time, and in the area west of State Road 7, the National Weather Service in Miami reported that there were two to four lightning strikes very minute or two.

Robert Molleda, the weather service's warning coordination meteorologist, said an electrical current is able to travel along a metal fence or through wet ground or a wet surface. It's unclear what the man was doing when he was struck.

Lightning strikes are common during South Florida's rainy season, which began in late May. In fact, there's a higher chance of getting struck by lightning in Florida than anywhere else in the country because of daily thunderstorm activity, especially in June and July.

"Florida leads the country in the number of lightning deaths and injuries," Molleda said. "It's because we get more lightning than any other part of the country. It's our climate."

While the chances of getting indirectly or directly struck by lightning are low, this isn't the first time a Palm Beach County resident has been hit.

In August 2010, Joseph Guerrero, then a 17-year-old Palm Beach Central High student, was indirectly hit by lightning while fishing in his suburban Lake Worth neighborhood.

When he arrived at Delray Medical Center, Guerrero told doctors that he lost consciousness for a while and he couldn't feel his legs.

He was hospitalized for about a week and is expected to make a full recovery.

"You hear the expression 'you're more likely to win the lottery than get hit by lightning.' That may not apply to Florida," Mollada said.

Twitter: @alexseltzer

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- Posted by FlaNative79 at 1:36 p.m. Jun. 11, 2013
- Report Abuse

WOW, talk about bad luck!



- Posted by Frenny at 2:56 p.m. Jun. 11, 2013
- Report Abuse

Was his name Frankenstein?



- Posted by Bucky46 at 4:08 p.m. Jun. 11, 2013
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He turned gay the moment he entered the Wellington Hospital.



- Posted by TrafficAvenger at 6:01 p.m. Jun. 11, 2013
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When you get energized by a bolt, It makes you tingle all over and the old expression of it will make your hair stand up is bogus. You get quite the charge from it followed by numbness all through the your body. Glad to hear he lived to tell his story.

Shocking as it may be.....:)



- Posted by MimiBerg at 7:24 p.m. Jun. 11, 2013
- Report Abuse

This story only mentions one other person being hit? A friend was in his driveway and was struck by lightening ... it made the news. He survived, but has had lingering neurological problems. Being struck is not funny... it can be deadly serious.

5 Comment(s)

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