



LIGHTNING and RVs

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PURPOSE

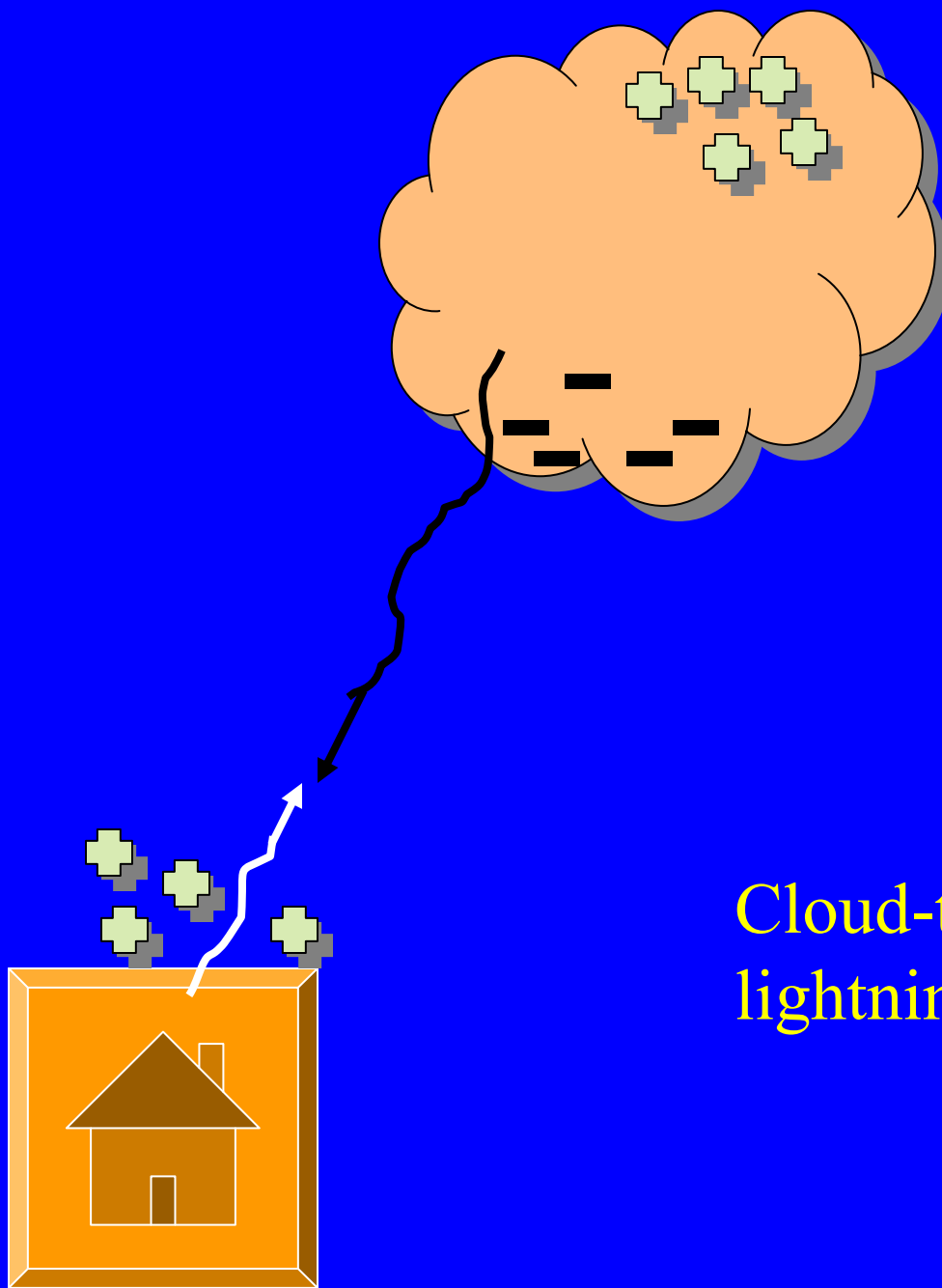
To acquaint you with lightning in general and
the affect of lightning in/on an RV in particular.

Treat Lightning like a Snake.

If you see it or hear it....
take evasive measures.

What Kills People and Damages RVs?

- Cloud-to-ground lighting
- Current across your heart
- Access to your RV wires



Cloud-to-ground
lightning

Two important facts

- Half of the casualties of lightning strikes occur in open fields
- Lightning killed more people BEFORE the rain and lightning were most intense.

We all possess a first-class lightning detection device, built into our heads.

Sound travels at about 1,100 feet per second:

- A 5 second Flash to Bang indicates that the lightning is a mile away.
- 10 seconds is 2 miles
- 20 seconds is 4 miles

If parked and a lightning storm is nearby

- Make sure the RV jacks are retracted
- Disconnect and store the shore power lines.
- Retract all TV/satellite antenna

Parking Considerations

- Don't let your RV be an isolated tall object
- Don't be connected to anything that may be an isolated tall object.
- Don't park near the tallest trees or utility poles.
- Park next to buildings or underpasses.

If you are walking and caught in a storm

- Find a safe shelter such as a building
- Get in a vehicle

If you can't find shelter

- Avoid being in the highest spot, wide-open areas, tall isolated trees, and water-related activities
- Avoid unprotected open structures like picnic pavilions and rain shelters
- Put your feet together and crouch down

EFFECTS and SOLUTIONS

- People, who have been struck by lightning, do not carry an electrical charge and are safe to touch.
- Deaths from lightning are from cardiac arrest or shock that causes breathing to stop.
- Apply CPR or mouth-to-mouth-resuscitation immediately.
- Use a defibrillator if available
- Get emergency help promptly.

Lightning Detectors

- Boltek - \$800, commercial applications, e.g. campgrounds, golf courses, & baseball fields
- Skyscan - \$190, vehicle applications, e.g. RVs, & trucks
- Strike Alert - \$80, personal applications, e.g. hikers, boaters, bikers, & golfers

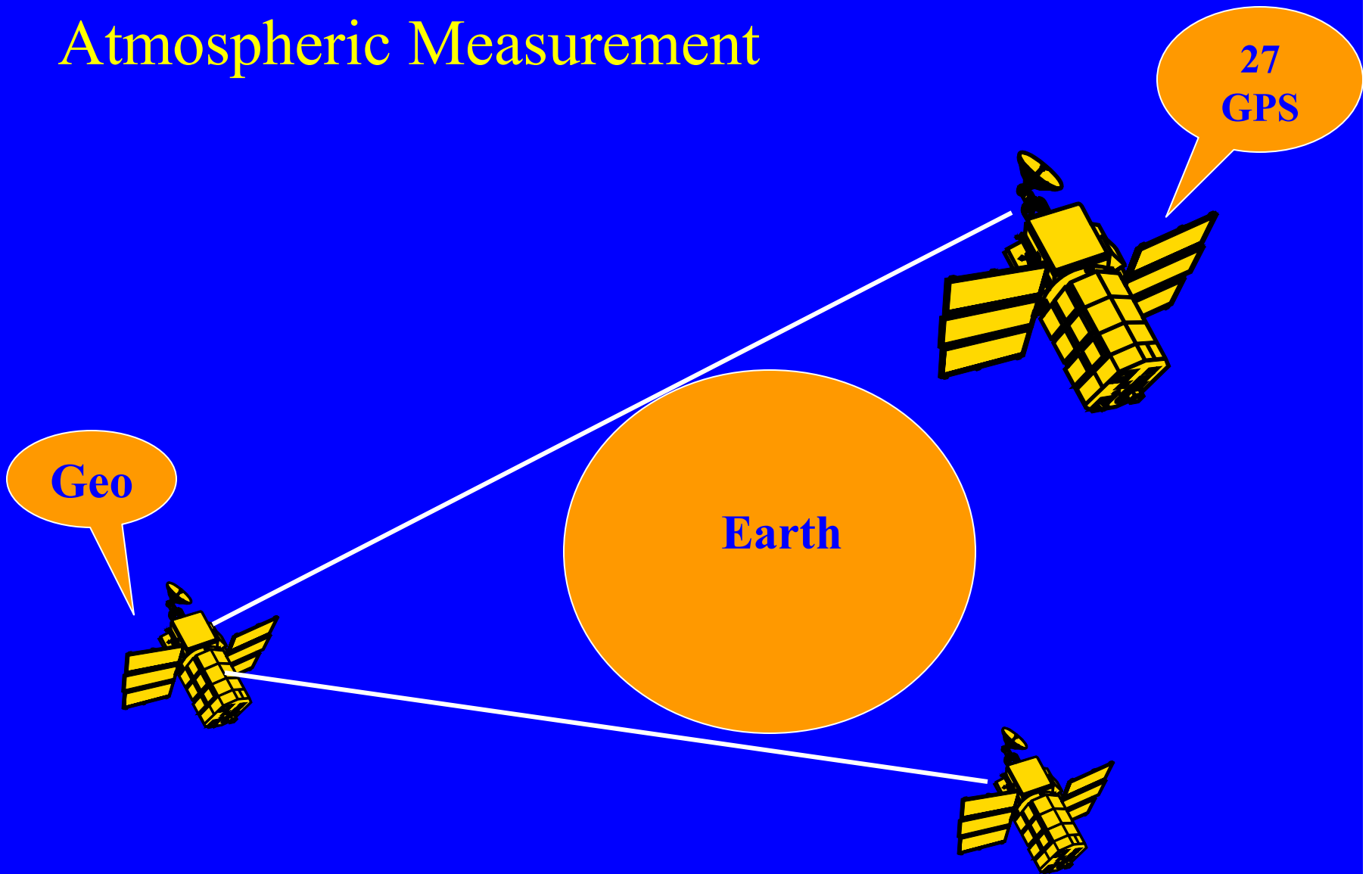
Causes of Lightning

- Different electrical charge between clouds
- Different electrical between clouds and ground

Therefore,

Knowledge of moisture content of clouds
predicts lightning potential

Atmospheric Measurement



Applications of GPS

- Developing a model of the earth's moisture content for weather prediction which includes lightning potential
- GPS is the only worldwide utility
- Positime = Position + Time
- Navigation
- Cellular phones
- Internet
- National Electric grids