



The Maine Chapter of the Electron Device and Solid State Circuits Societies  
of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers proudly presents:

# “Lightning Safety” Talk & Tour of National Weather Service, Gray ME



**When:** September 11, 2012

**Where:** National Weather Service

1 Weather Lane, Route 231

Gray, ME

**Cost:** \$5 /Members (Students Free)  
\$10/Non-Members

**Agenda:**

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Social/Dinner

6:30 PM - 6:40 PM IEEE Business

6:40 PM – 7:40 PM Lecture/Q&A

7:40 PM – 8:00 PM Tour



**John Jensenius**

*Lightning Safety Specialist*

*Warning Coordination Meteorologist*

*National Weather Service*

*Gray, Maine*

**Lecture Summary** It's a common situation. A thunderstorm is approaching or nearby. Are conditions safe, or is it time to head for safety? Not wanting to appear overly cautious, many people wait far too long before reacting to this potentially deadly weather threat. Each year across the United States, thunderstorms produce an estimated 25 million cloud-to-ground flashes of lightning -- each one of those flashes is a potential killer. Based on cases documented by the National Weather Service over the past 30 years, an average of 54 people are killed by lightning each year and hundreds more are injured. In order to understand the lightning threat, some basic information should be known. Thunderstorms produce two types of lightning flashes, 'negative' and 'positive.' While both types are deadly, the characteristics of the two types of flashes are quite different. John will discuss the science and statistics of lightning and present safety guidelines. Following his talk, he will lead us on a tour of the NWS Gray Weather station.

**About the speaker:** John is NOAA's specialist on lightning safety and serves as a national spokesperson for the organization on issues related to lightning and lightning safety. He has developed a considerable amount of educational material on lightning, and tracks and documents lightning fatalities nationwide. John has worked with numerous organizations such as Little League Baseball to promote lightning safety among their participants. In addition to numerous non-technical talks, interviews, and television and radio shows concerning lightning and lightning safety, John has made live appearances on network shows such as the Today Show and the CBS Early Show and has also appeared as a lightning expert on special programs related to lightning including several aired on The Weather Channel. In 2001, John initiated the first "National Lightning Safety Awareness Week" an effort that has continued to grow since its inception. For his work in lightning safety education, John was honored with the National Weather Association's 2005 Public Education Award. In 2006, in recognition of his efforts to initiate NOAA's lightning safety efforts and for his contributions to that effort, John was awarded a Department of Commerce Silver Medal, the Department's second highest honor.

John received a BA degree in Earth Science/Meteorology from Millersville University in 1974 and an MS degree in Meteorology from the Pennsylvania State University in 1976. In 1976, John began his professional career teaching meteorology and climatology at the State University of New York at Oneonta. From 1977 through 1994, John worked for the National Weather Service's Techniques Development Laboratory, first as a research meteorologist and later as Chief of the Computer System Section of the Synoptic-Scale Techniques Branch. At the Techniques Development Laboratory, John was responsible for developing and disseminating statistical forecast products used by meteorologists nationwide. In 1993, he was awarded the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Award for his work in statistical weather prediction. Since 1995, John has served as the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the NWS office in the Gray, Maine. John is a member of the American Meteorological Society.

**Due to space constraints, attendance will be limited. Pre-register online at:**

[https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/meeting\\_view/list\\_meeting/13715](https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/meeting_view/list_meeting/13715)