



Weather and Lightning Safety on the Lake

water in time An Extended Guide · No. 2064

————— An Extended Guide · No. 2064 —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

Bill Davis — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · bill@billshometech.com · Atwater, Ohio

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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

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1. The Whole Idea in One Glance If you read only this page, you will still make smart calls on the water. Weather safety on the lake comes down to two habits: check before you launch, and watch the sky while you are out. A wind-and-radar app shows you what is coming before you leave the ramp. Your own eyes and a simple lightning rule handle the rest. Head in early and you will never regret it. Check wind and radar on your phone before you launch Keep an eye on the sky once you are on the water The 30-30 rule tells you when lightning means it is time to go A boat on open water is exposed, so give yourself time to reach shore When in doubt, wait it out or stay home — the fish will keep Weather on a lake can change faster than on land because there is nothing to slow the wind. Giving yourself extra time to get in is the single best habit you can build. WHY IT MATTERS 2. Why Weather Matters More on the Water On land, if the weather turns you step inside. On a lake, there is no inside, and the open water offers no shelter from wind or lightning. A storm that would be a minor nuisance in the backyard is a real concern in a boat. That is not a reason to worry — it is simply a reason to plan ahead and watch the sky. Open water offers no shelter from wind or lightning There is nothing to slow the wind, so it builds fast You need time and distance to reach safety A little planning turns a risk into a non-event WATCH OUT The goal is never to be surprised. With a quick check before you go and an eye on the sky while you are out, you will always see weather coming with time to spare.

STAY CALM**5. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

3. The Calm Habit That Keeps You Safe Good weather safety is calm, not fearful. It is the quiet habit of looking before you launch and glancing up now and then while you fish. People who stay safe on the water are not nervous — they simply pay attention and give themselves room. That steady awareness is worth more than any gadget. There is no need to cancel every trip that has a cloud in the forecast. The point is to know what is coming so you can enjoy the good hours and be off the water before the rough ones. Confidence comes from knowing, not from guessing. The best boaters treat a weather check like buckling a seatbelt: automatic, quick, and no cause for alarm. It becomes second nature after a few trips. THE FORECAST 4. Checking the Forecast Before You Go The most important weather check happens before you ever leave the house. A look at the day's forecast tells you the wind, the chance of storms, and the best window to be out. A few minutes with a weather app at the kitchen table sets up the whole day. It is the easiest safety step there is.

- 1** Open a weather app the morning of your trip
- 2** Look at the wind speed and gusts for the hours you will be out
- 3** Check the chance and timing of any storms
- 4** Pick the calmest window and plan around it TIP Check the hour-by-hour forecast, not just the daily summary. A day listed as 'partly cloudy' can still hide a windy afternoon or a storm rolling through at three o'clock.

WINDY APP

6. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

5. The Windy App for Wind and Gusts Windy is a free app that boaters love because it shows the wind so clearly. It paints the wind across a map with moving lines, so you can see which way it blows and how hard, hour by hour. It also shows gusts, waves, and storms. The free version does everything most lake boaters need. Shows wind direction and speed on an easy map Steps forward hour by hour so you can plan your window Also shows gusts, waves, and rain Free to use, with a paid upgrade most people do not need My lake navigation and weather guide covers Windy alongside the map apps. For weather alone, Windy plus a radar app is a simple, powerful pair. READING WIND 6. Reading Wind Speed Simply Wind speed is given in miles per hour, and you do not need to be an expert to read it. A light breeze under ten miles per hour makes for easy, pleasant water. Around fifteen it gets choppy and a small boat feels it. Above that, a lake can get rough enough that many boaters choose to wait. Under 10 mph: light and pleasant for most boats Around 10 to 15 mph: choppy, and a small boat feels it Above 15 to 20 mph: rough; many boaters wait it out Gusts matter too — a calm average can hide strong bursts TIP Pay attention to gusts, not just the steady wind. A fifteen-mile-per-hour wind gusting to thirty is far rougher than the average number alone suggests.

WHY WIND**7. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

7. Why Wind Matters So Much on a Boat Wind is the condition boaters feel most, because it builds the waves, pushes the boat around, and makes a small craft hard to control. It also tends to pick up in the afternoon as the day heats. Knowing the wind for the hours you plan to be out is often more useful than knowing whether it will rain. Wind builds the waves that toss a boat. It pushes a light boat off course and makes steering work. It often rises in the afternoon as the day warms. A calm morning can turn into a windy afternoon. On many lakes, the calmest water of the day is early morning before the wind wakes up. If you want glassy water, dawn is often your best window. WAVES 8. Waves and What They Mean Waves are mostly the wind's doing, and a wind-and-wave app shows you how big they are likely to get. On our inland lakes the waves rarely reach the size of open sea, but a windy day on a big reservoir can still build a chop that soaks you and makes a small boat work hard. Bigger water takes bigger wind to turn rough. Waves grow with the wind and the size of the lake. Big reservoirs can build a real chop on a windy day. A small boat feels waves far more than a big one. The app's wave forecast helps you judge before you launch. WATCH OUT Wind blowing the length of a long lake builds bigger waves than the same wind across a narrow one. On a big reservoir, mind which way the wind is pointed down the water.

RADAR**8. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

9. Radar Apps and Reading Them A radar app shows rain and storms as colored blobs moving across a map, so you can see weather coming toward you and roughly when it will arrive. Green is light rain, yellow and orange are heavier, and red means a strong storm. Watching which way the colors drift tells you whether they are headed your way. Colored blobs show where rain and storms are Green is light; yellow, orange, and red grow heavier Press play to see which way the weather is moving If the storms are drifting toward you, plan to head in Apps like RadarScope and the Weather Channel app show this well, and Windy includes radar too. Any of them lets you watch a storm approach with time to react. NOAA 10. NOAA and the National Weather Service The National Weather Service, part of NOAA, is the government source behind most weather apps and the one that issues official watches and warnings. Its forecasts and alerts are free and trustworthy. A watch means conditions are possible; a warning means it is happening or about to. A warning is your cue to act. NOAA and the National Weather Service are the official source A watch means severe weather is possible A warning means it is happening or imminent — act on it Its forecasts are free and feed most weather apps WATCH OUT When you see a severe thunderstorm warning for your area, that is not the time to squeeze in one more cast. Head for the ramp and let the storm pass.

ALERTS

9. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

11. Weather Alerts on Your Phone Your phone can warn you about severe weather on its own. It can sound an alert for official warnings in your area, and weather apps can push a notice when a storm is near. These alerts are a helpful backstop, catching the weather you did not happen to be watching for. They work only where you have a signal, though. Your phone can sound alerts for official severe-weather warnings Weather apps can push a notice when a storm is close Alerts are a backstop, not a replacement for watching the sky They need a cell signal to reach you on the water WATCH OUT Do not rely on phone alerts alone on the water. A dead zone or a dead battery means no alert, which is exactly why your own eyes on the sky still matter most. SET UP ALERTS 12. Setting Up Alerts Before You Launch It is worth taking a few minutes once to make sure your phone's weather alerts are turned on. Both iPhones and Android phones have a setting for government emergency alerts, and your weather app usually has its own notification setting too. Set it up at home and it quietly watches your back on every trip.

- 1 Open your phone's settings and find notifications or alerts
- 2 Make sure emergency and weather alerts are turned on
- 3 Open your weather app and allow its storm notifications
- 4 Leave them on so they warn you automatically This is a set-it-once task. I am glad to sit with you and turn on the right alerts if the menus are not obvious — it takes only a few minutes.

MORNING CHECK

10. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

13. The Morning-of Weather Check The day's weather can shift from what the forecast said yesterday, so a fresh look the morning you go is worth the two minutes. Check the wind for your hours, scan the radar for anything already forming, and confirm your window still looks good. Then you launch knowing what to expect.

- 1 The morning of your trip, open your weather app fresh
- 2 Check the wind and gusts for the hours you will be out
- 3 Scan the radar for storms already building nearby

- 4 Confirm your calm window, or adjust your plan TIP If the morning check looks worse than yesterday's forecast, trust the newer information. A shifting forecast is the sky telling you to stay flexible. WATCH THE SKY 14. Watching the Sky on the Water No app replaces simply looking up now and then. Storms announce themselves with building clouds, a darkening sky, a shift in the wind, and a drop in temperature. Once you are on the water, a glance at the sky every so often keeps you ahead of anything the forecast missed. Look up now and then, especially toward the west Tall, dark, building clouds mean a storm may be coming A sudden wind shift or cool gust often comes before a storm Distant thunder is an early warning to start heading in Weather in our area usually moves in from the west, so that is the direction to glance toward most. Clouds building tall and dark to the west deserve your attention.

STORM SIGNS

11. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

15. Signs a Storm Is Building A few plain signs tell you a storm is on the way before any rain falls. The sky darkens, especially to the west. The wind picks up or suddenly changes direction. The air turns cooler. And you may hear a first distant rumble of thunder. Any of these is your cue to start thinking about heading in. The sky darkens, often to the west The wind rises or shifts direction suddenly The air turns noticeably cooler A first distant rumble of thunder WATCH OUT You do not need all the signs at once. A single clear one, like distant thunder or a fast-darkening western sky, is enough reason to begin working your way toward the ramp. THE 30-30 RULE 16. The 30-30 Lightning Rule The 30-30 rule is a simple, trusted way to handle lightning. When you see a flash, count the seconds until you hear the thunder. If the thunder comes within thirty seconds, the storm is close enough to be dangerous — get off the water. Then wait a full thirty minutes after the last thunder before you go back out.

- 1 See a lightning flash and start counting seconds
- 2 If thunder comes within 30 seconds, get off the water
- 3 Head to shore and shelter away from the open
- 4 Wait 30 minutes after the last thunder before returning WATCH OUT Thunder within thirty seconds of the flash means lightning is within about six miles — close enough that the next strike could reach you. That is the moment to be heading in, not finishing a cast.

WHY 30-30**12. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

17. Why the 30-30 Rule Works The rule works because sound travels slowly compared to light. You see the flash at once, but the thunder takes about five seconds to reach you for every mile away. Counting to thirty means the strike was within roughly six miles, and lightning can jump that far. The second thirty, the wait, covers the storm's trailing strikes. You see the flash instantly; thunder lags about 5 seconds per mile A 30-second count means lightning is within about 6 miles Lightning can strike that far from the storm's center The 30-minute wait covers strikes as the storm moves off The thirty-minute wait feels long when the sky is clearing, but trailing strikes after a storm are a real hazard. Giving it the full half hour is the safe, simple choice. OPEN WATER 18. Lightning and the Open Water A boat on open water is one of the more exposed places to be in a lightning storm, because you are often the tallest thing around. This is not meant to frighten you — it is simply why getting off the water early matters so much. The plain answer to lightning is distance and shelter, and both take a little time to reach. On open water you may be the tallest point around Getting to shore and shelter is the goal Give yourself time — do not wait until the storm is overhead Distance from the water is what keeps you safe TIP The time to head in is when the storm is still distant, not when it arrives. An early, calm decision to go in beats a frantic dash across choppy water.

WHERE TO GO

13. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

19. Where to Go When Lightning Comes When lightning threatens, the goal is to get off the water and into real shelter. A building or a hard-topped vehicle is best. Standing under a lone tall tree or an open picnic shelter is not safe. If you can reach the ramp and your truck, that is an excellent place to wait the storm out. A building or a hard-topped vehicle is the safest shelter. Your tow vehicle at the ramp is a fine place to wait. Avoid standing under a lone tall tree. Avoid open, exposed high ground. Your truck with the windows up is a genuinely safe spot in a lightning storm. Reaching the ramp, loading up, and waiting in the cab is often the simplest plan. CAUGHT OUT 20. If You Are Caught Out in a Storm Sometimes a storm moves faster than expected and you cannot reach the ramp in time. Stay calm. Make for the nearest safe shore, keep everyone low in the boat, and get life jackets on. Slow down enough to handle the waves safely. The aim is to reach any shelter, not necessarily your own launch.

- 1 Head for the nearest safe shore, not just your ramp
- 2 Get everyone in a life jacket
- 3 Keep low in the boat and stay seated
- 4 Slow to a safe speed for the waves and keep control WATCH OUT Do not try to outrun a fast storm at full speed across rough water. Steady control and the nearest safe shore beat a dangerous dash to a distant ramp.

REACH SHORE

14. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

21. Reaching Shore in Time The whole point of watching the weather is to give yourself the time you need to get in. A faster boat has more margin; a kayak or canoe needs a bigger head start. Know how long it takes you to reach the ramp from the far end of the lake, and start in well before the weather arrives. Know how long your trip back to the ramp takes A slow boat needs a much bigger head start Start in early, while the storm is still distant Factor in wind and waves, which slow the trip home TIP If you fish the far end of a big lake, note the time it takes to get back. Then begin heading in that much sooner when weather threatens. WIND SHIFTS 22. Wind Shifts and Sudden Gusts A sudden change in the wind often comes just ahead of a storm, as a gust front pushes out from it. The wind may swing direction, cool off, and strengthen all at once. If the water goes from calm to whitecaps in a few minutes, treat it as a warning that weather is close behind. A sudden gust and wind shift often precedes a storm Calm water turning to whitecaps is a clear warning The air usually cools as the gust front arrives Take it as your cue to secure gear and head in A gust front can arrive before the rain and before the storm looks close. If the wind suddenly kicks up and cools, do not wait for the clouds to catch up.

FOG

15. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

23. Fog on the Lake Fog is less dramatic than a storm but can be just as tricky, because it hides the shore and other boats. It is most common on calm, cool mornings over warmer water. If fog rolls in, slow down, keep track of your direction, and use your downloaded lake map to find your way back without wandering. Fog hides the shore and other boats It is common on calm, cool mornings Slow down and keep track of which way you are heading A downloaded lake map helps you navigate back TIP If thick fog sets in and you are unsure of your way, it is fine to anchor in a safe spot near shore and wait for it to lift rather than guessing your direction. HEAT AND SUN 24. Heat and Sun Safety Weather safety is not only about storms. A long, bright day on the water brings its own risks from heat and sun, made worse by the glare bouncing off the surface. Water, shade, sunscreen, and a hat keep the day pleasant. Your phone's weather app shows the heat and the sun strength so you can plan breaks. Sun glare off the water doubles your exposure Carry water and take shade breaks on hot days A hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen go a long way The weather app shows the heat and sun strength Heat also drains your phone, the very tool you need for weather. Keep the phone shaded so it lasts the day and so you stay comfortable too.

COLD WATER**16. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

25. Cold Water and the Season Early spring and late fall bring a quieter danger: cold water. Even on a mild, sunny day, our lakes can be cold enough that a fall overboard quickly saps your strength. This is a season to dress for the water temperature, wear the life jacket without fail, and respect a forecast that threatens wind or waves. Spring and fall water stays cold even on warm days A fall into cold water saps strength fast Dress for the water, not just the air Wear the life jacket without exception in cold seasons WATCH OUT The air can be pleasant while the water is still frigid. In the cold seasons, the weather that matters most is the water temperature under you. HOURLY 26. Checking the Hourly Forecast The hour-by-hour forecast is the boater's friend, because it shows exactly when the wind rises or a storm rolls through. A day that looks iffy overall often has a perfectly good morning window. Reading the hours lets you fish the calm stretch and be home before the rough part. The hourly view shows when wind and storms arrive A rough-looking day often has a good window Plan your trip around the calmest hours Set a time to head in before the weather turns TIP Give yourself a firm turn-around time based on the hourly forecast, and stick to it even if the fish are biting. The calm window closing is the clock that matters.

THE WINDOW

17. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

27. Picking Your Weather Window Choosing the right hours is often the whole game.

Mornings tend to be calmer, with the wind rising and storms brewing in the afternoon heat.

Picking a window that avoids the rough part of the day means a pleasant trip and an easy,

early return. The best anglers plan around the weather, not against it. Mornings are often

calmest, before wind and afternoon storms Pick hours that dodge the day's rough stretch

Plan to be off the water before storms are forecast A short, calm trip beats a long, rough

one There is no shame in a short trip. A relaxed morning on glassy water is far better than

pushing into a windy, stormy afternoon to squeeze out more hours. PHONE ALIVE 28.

Keeping the Phone Alive for Weather Your phone is your main weather tool on the water,

so keeping it charged and dry is part of staying safe. A dead phone cannot show you the

radar or sound an alert. A charged power bank, a waterproof pouch, and a shaded spot

keep the phone ready to warn you all day long. A charged phone is your radar, forecast,

and alert system Carry a power bank so it never runs flat Keep it dry in a waterproof pouch

Keep it shaded so heat does not drain it TIP My guide on keeping a phone charged and dry

on the water covers pouches and power banks. On a weather day, a living phone is a

safety item, not just a convenience.

BACKUP SOURCE

18. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

29. A Backup Weather Source It is wise not to lean on a single weather source. Apps occasionally disagree, and a dead zone can leave you without a signal. Checking two apps before you launch, and carrying a simple backup like a weather radio, means you are never flying blind if one source fails. Check two weather apps before you launch, in case they differ A dead zone can cut off app updates on the water A weather radio works without a cell signal Your own eyes on the sky are the ultimate backup When two apps agree, you can trust the plan. When they disagree, lean toward the more cautious one and keep a closer eye on the sky. WEATHER RADIO 30. A Weather Radio Aboard A NOAA weather radio broadcasts continuous forecasts and warnings straight from the National Weather Service, with no cell signal needed. A small handheld one, or the weather channels built into many marine radios, gives you official alerts even in a dead zone. It is a simple, dependable backup for bigger or more remote water. A weather radio broadcasts official forecasts and warnings It works with no cell signal at all Many marine radios include the weather channels A dependable backup on big or remote water TIP My marine radio guide covers the radios that include weather channels. If you boat where the cell signal is thin, that built-in weather band is a quiet, worthwhile feature.

TELL SOMEONE

19. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

31. Telling Someone Your Plan Before you launch, tell someone onshore where you are going and when you expect to be back. If weather turns and you are delayed or in trouble, someone knows to check on you and where to send help. It costs nothing and it works even where there is no signal, because you leave word before you go.

- 1 Tell a family member or friend your launch spot and lake
- 2 Give a time you expect to be back
- 3 Ask them to check in if you are much later
- 4 Text them when you are safely off the water This simple float plan is one of the most powerful safety tools there is, and it costs nothing. I recommend it on every trip, calm forecast or not. OHIO LAKES 32. NE-Ohio Lakes and Local Weather Our local lakes each catch the weather a little differently. A big reservoir like Berlin or West Branch has

long open stretches where wind builds a real chop. A smaller, sheltered lake like Mogadore stays calmer in the same wind. Knowing how your lake behaves helps you read the forecast for the water you actually fish. Big reservoirs like Berlin and West Branch build wind chop. Smaller, sheltered lakes like Mogadore stay calmer. Wind down a long lake builds bigger waves. Learn how your home lake behaves in a given wind. TIP: The same forecast can mean a fine day on a sheltered lake and a rough one on a big open reservoir. Match your choice of water to the wind that is coming.

SUMMER STORMS

20. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

33. Afternoon Storms in Summer Summer in Ohio brings pop-up afternoon thunderstorms that can build quickly out of a warm, humid day. The morning may be beautiful and the storm may not show until early afternoon. This is exactly why a morning plan to fish early and be in by midday serves you so well in the warm months. Warm, humid summer days can spawn afternoon storms. The morning can be lovely before a storm builds. Fish early and plan to be in by midday in storm season. Watch the western sky closely on humid afternoons. A pop-up storm can go from a small cloud to a downpour in under an hour. On a hot, sticky summer day, keep your weather check and your sky-watching a little closer.

GUESTS 34. Teaching Guests the Plan If you take family or friends out, a quick word before you launch keeps everyone safe and calm. Tell them where the life jackets are, what you will do if weather comes, and that heading in early is normal, not a failure. Guests who know the plan stay relaxed when the sky changes. Show guests where the life jackets are before you launch. Explain that heading in early is the normal, smart call. Ask everyone to speak up if they see the sky change. Keep the tone calm — it is a plan, not a worry. TIP: Grandkids especially take their cue from you. A calm, matter-of-fact plan for weather keeps a quick trip to shore from feeling like an emergency to them.

OTHERS

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35. Watching for Others in Trouble When weather turns, keep half an eye on other boaters too, especially small craft that may be slower to reach shore. A wave, a horn, or a call on the radio can help someone who is struggling. Looking out for one another is part of being on the water, and someone may do the same for you one day. Keep an eye on small, slow craft when weather turns. A wave or a horn can warn or help another boater. Offer help if someone is clearly struggling to get in. On big water, a radio call reaches others fast. Kayakers and canoeists need the most lead time to reach shore. If you see one far out as weather builds, a friendly warning can make a real difference. LIFE JACKETS 36. Life Jackets and Rough Water When the water gets rough, the life jacket stops being optional. Waves, wind, and a pitching boat are exactly when a fall overboard is most likely and most dangerous. Getting everyone into a life jacket at the first sign of rough weather is a simple move that turns a scary moment into a manageable one. Get everyone in a life jacket when water turns rough. Rough water is when a fall overboard is most likely. A worn jacket works; a stowed one does not. Children and weak swimmers should wear them always. WATCH OUT The time to put on a life jacket is before you need it, not after you are in the water. When the wind kicks up, jackets go on first, before anything else.

STAY HOME

22. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

37. When to Simply Stay Home The best weather decision is sometimes made in the driveway. If the forecast shows strong wind, a good chance of storms during your hours, or cold rough water, there is no shame in leaving the boat on the trailer. The lake will be there another day, and a canceled trip is a small price for an easy mind. Strong wind or storms in your window: a fine day to stay home Cold, rough water in the shoulder seasons: wait for better A canceled trip costs nothing; a rough one can cost plenty The lake and the fish will still be there next time Experienced boaters cancel trips all the time and think nothing of it. Knowing when not to go is as much a skill as anything you do on the water. AFTER THE STORM 38. After the Storm Passes Once a storm has gone through, give it room before you head back out. Remember the second half of the 30-30 rule: wait thirty minutes after the last thunder. Check the radar to be sure another cell is not right behind it, and watch for debris and rough water left in the storm's wake. Wait 30 minutes after the last thunder to return Check the radar for a second storm behind the first Watch for floating debris stirred up by the storm Expect rough water to linger after the wind eases TIP Storms often come in waves, with a second cell close behind the first. A quick radar check before you relaunch keeps you from going out into round two.

LEARN

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39. Logging What You Learned Every trip teaches you a little more about how your lake handles the weather. Noting what the wind really felt like compared to the forecast, or how long it took to reach the ramp, builds your judgment over time. After a few seasons, you will read the sky and the apps with a confidence no guide can give you. Note how the real wind compared to the forecast Remember how long your trip back to the ramp took Learn which winds turn your lake rough Your judgment grows sharper every season The apps give you numbers, but your own experience on your home lake turns those numbers into good decisions. The two together make you a safe, confident boater. A ROUTINE 40. A Simple Pre-Launch Weather Routine A short, same-every-time weather routine means you never launch into a surprise. Check the wind, scan the radar, confirm alerts are on, and set a turn-around time. Four quick steps at the ramp, and you are on the water with a plan and a clear head.

- 1 Check the wind and gusts for your hours on a weather app
- 2 Scan the radar for storms building nearby
- 3 Confirm your phone's weather alerts are on
- 4 Set a turn-around time and tell your crew TIP Pair this with your other launch habits, like sealing the phone in its pouch and sending your float plan. A short routine done every time is what keeps trips easy. COMMON WORRIES 41. Common Questions People Ask Me When folks ask me about weather on the lake, the same questions come up. Here are the calm, honest answers so you can head out with confidence. 'Which app should I use?' Windy for wind, a radar app for storms — both are plenty

YOUR CHECKLIST

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'How close is too close for lightning?' Thunder within 30 seconds means head in 'How long do I wait after a storm?' A full 30 minutes after the last thunder 'What if I lose signal?' Watch the sky and carry a weather radio on big water If a weather question here is not covered, call or text and ask. A short answer can save you a rough afternoon or settle a worry before a trip. 42. Your Weather Safety Checklist Here is the short version to keep with your boating gear. Check these off and you will read the weather well and come home easy every trip. Checked wind and radar on my phone before launching Weather alerts turned on and the phone charged and dry Set a turn-around time and told my crew Know the 30-30 rule: thunder within 30 seconds means head in Life jackets aboard and worn when water turns rough Float plan left with someone onshore Matched my choice of lake to the wind that is coming Ready to stay home if the forecast is rough Tape this list in your tackle box or tuck it in the dry bag. A quick glance before you launch keeps every trip calm and safe. WHEN TO CALL 43. When It Is Worth Calling Me Most of this you can set up yourself with a few free apps and a little practice. But if you would like help getting the right weather and radar apps on your phone, turning on the alerts that matter, and learning to read them with confidence, that is exactly what I am here for. I have spent more than thirty years making tech simple for folks, and I am happy to sit beside you until the apps feel easy and the plan feels clear.

TIP**25. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

I can set up your weather apps and alerts, show you how to read the wind and radar, and walk through a simple safety plan for your lake. My first in-home visit is a flat ninety-nine dollars, and remote screen-share help is forty-nine — call or text me at (330) 200-8042. CHEAT SHEET Everyday Cheat Sheet Keep this page with your boating gear. It is the short answer to reading the weather and staying safe on the lake. Check wind and radar on your phone before every launch Windy shows the wind; a radar app shows the storms Watch the sky, especially to the west, while you are out 30-30 rule: thunder within 30 seconds, get off the water Wait 30 minutes after the last thunder before going back out A boat on open water is exposed — head in early, not late Life jackets on when the water turns rough Leave a float plan with someone onshore every trip Get help: call Bill at (330) 200-8042

HOW I CAN HELP**26. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

Your Visit — and My Promise In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included. Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo). My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated. Call or text (330) 200-8042 · Book a visit: billshometech.com/book · bill@billshometech.com This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Which Weather Tool for What?

Three simple tools cover almost everything.

Windy App

Wind, gusts, and waves
Hour-by-hour planning
Free for most boaters

Radar App

Shows storms approaching
Press play to see
movement
Red means a strong storm

Phone Alerts

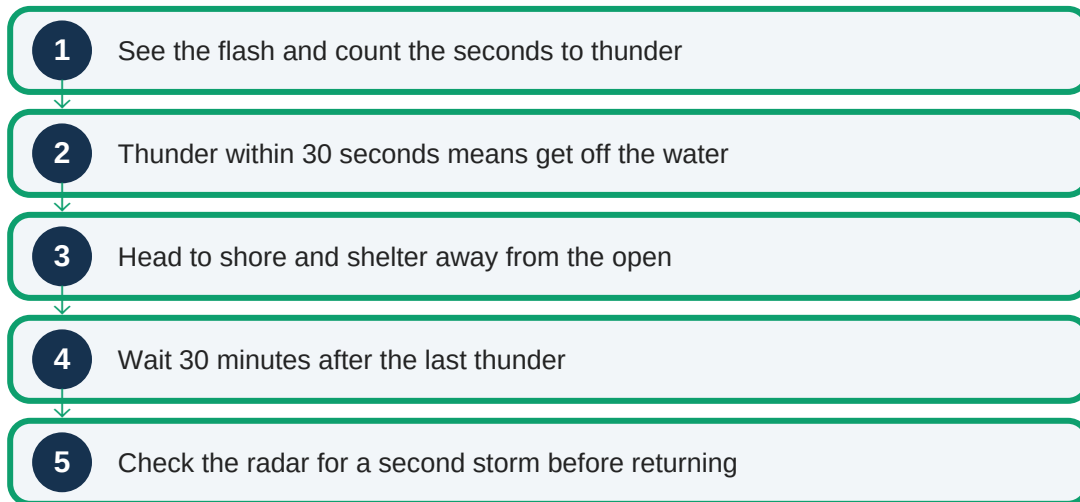
Warns of severe weather
A backstop, not your
only tool
Needs a cell signal

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

The 30-30 Lightning Rule in Action

A simple count that tells you when to go.



BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.



HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included.

Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo).

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Call or text **(330) 200-8042** · Book a visit: **billshometech.com/book** · **bill@billshometech.com**

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