ThunderBolt® Storm Detector

Set-Up and Operation Quick Reference

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PRODUCT SET-UP

1. ALARM RANGE SETTINGS

The ThunderBolt is designed to provide three types of warning to the user: text displays on the 2-line LCD; flashing red LED, and an audible warning tone. The ThunderBolt text screen displays always show information on storm activity out to the full 75-mile detection range of the unit. The user can set the detection distances (in miles) at which the LED will turn from green (for ALL CLEAR) to RED. The user can also set the detection distance (in miles) at which the audible tone will begin to sound. These two selections do NOT have to be the same detection distance. For instance, you may set the LED to turn from green to red at one distance, and the audible tone can be activated at a different distance.

The factory setting for all ranges is typically 40 miles. To re-set the detection ranges, turn on the ThunderBolt and then use the **UP/DOWN scroll keys** ▲ ▼ to move the cursor to any item on the MAIN MENU. Item 2 is the ALARM RANGE selection. Once the cursor is on Item 2, press the **ENTER** ● key.

VISUAL ALARM
SET RANGE: 30MI

AUDIBLE ALARM
SET RANGE: 30MI

First you will be prompted to set the VISUAL ALARM Range, which is the storm distance at which the LED will turn from GREEN to RED. Select the desired distance in miles using the **UP/DOWN scroll keys** ▲ ▼ to raise or lower the number shown on the screen. Once the mileage is set to the desired number, wait 5 seconds and the ThundeBolt will then shift to the AUDIBLE ALARM range. Repeat the mileage selection process as above. Wait another 5 seconds and the ThunderBolt will automatically update the memory settings and return the unit to **SCANNING**.

2. SENSITIVITY

The ThunderBolt can be programmed to operate at **NORMAL** or **HIGH** detection sensitivity. This selection is made using Item 4 on the Main Menu. Use the **UP/DOWN scroll keys** ▲ ▼ to move the cursor down to Item 4 and hit the **ENTER** ● key. Then use the **UP/DOWN scroll keys** ▲ ▼ to move left or right to select **NORMAL** or **HIGH**. The **SENSITIVITY** level you have chosen is displayed on the **SCANNING** screen when the ThunderBolt is in normal storm detection operation.

SET SENSITIVITY:
HIGH _

3. NOISE TEST

The ThunderBolt comes with software that allows the unit to check for electronic noise (such as heavy machinery or other electronics) that might interfere with the proper operation of the unit. It is recommended that you run a noise test when you first use your unit. However, **DO NOT** run the test if there is storm activity within 50 miles of the area, as this may desensitize the ThunderBolt.. To run a noise test, use the **UP/DOWN scroll keys** ▲ ▼ to move the cursor to the word **START** and then press the **ENTER** ● key. The noise test may take up to 15 minutes to run. After that, it is recommended that you re-run the NOISE TEST at least once a month to make sure that nothing has changed in your area that might affect the operation and sensitivity of the unit.

RECOMMENDED RANGE SETTINGS

For school and outdoor sports use, it is strongly recommended that the Sensitivity be set to **HIGH**, and the alarm ranges (both visual and audible) be set to at least 20 miles. This should provide 20-30 minutes of advanced warning about the approach of storm activity. It is also recommended that the ThunderBolt be left in **SCANNING** mode as much as possible. If possible, leave the unit on in an office location and have it carried out to a specific location as needed. This allows the on-board computer to collect the most accurate data about surrounding storm activity.

WARNING: Should the ThunderBolt immediately detect storm activity when the unit is first turned on, **LOCAL** storm activity may already be in your area. Take immediate precautions as if a storm were already overhead until the ThunderBolt indicates a storm activity range at a safe distance.

Whenever the ThunderBolt displays a **STORM IS LOCAL** message, lightning and storm activity has been detected within 8 miles of your location. This means you are in **IMMEDIATE** danger of a lightning strike and all necessary precautions should be taken. No further outdoor activity should be allowed until the ThunderBolt no longer displays a **STORM IS LOCAL** message. (The ThunderBolt may still display the distance of the storm once it leaves your vicinity, but it should be safe to resume outdoor activity as long as the **STORM IS LOCAL** message is not displayed.)

TYPICAL SCREEN DISPLAYS IN A STORM

Shown below are a sample progression of the text screens you might see during the approach of a typical storm. It is important to remember that storms might form close to your location, and you would therefore not see this full range of screens showing the storm approach. Whenever the **STORM IS LOCAL** message appears, the lightning danger is **IMMEDIATE** and you should clear your outdoor activity areas.

Once a **STORM IS LOCAL** message is displayed, the ThunderBolt will also begin to display a **TIME TO CLEAR** estimate. This is shown in 15 minute blocks of time. It is important to remember that this is an estimate calculated by the ThunderBolt based on available information about the storm speed and size. The **TIME TO CLEAR** display is updated continually as the ThunderBolt tracks the storm activity, and may change as the actual weather conditions change around your location. In situations where multiple storm cells are in the area, it may take several hours for all lighting activity to leave your area.

REMEMBER, the lightning danger may be immediate even though you can't see clouds or hear thunder!