

Mountain thunder, lightning mean summer has arrived

By Tom Stienstra, San Francisco Chronicle

The thunder rumbled across the mountains, a low, steady roll that carried for miles.

On Saturday evening, as I cooked dinner at our fire pit, I gazed above a distant ridge, where the thunder seemed to originate. About a minute later, a lightning bolt fired across the dark sky.

“One, two three,” I counted, and at “nine,” another deep thunder roll resonated across the mountains.

The time from flash to bang, or lightning to thunder, represents 5 seconds per mile. At 9 seconds, the lightning was nearly 2 miles away.

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