Lightning report: October 2026

Satellite-detected lightning around 418 monitored cities in the Americas · Published 2026-11-02 · Revision 1

October belonged to South America. **Asunción, Paraguay** recorded **125,134 lightning flashes** within 50 miles, almost a third of them (37,325) on a single day, October 8. Ciudad del Este, also in Paraguay, came second with 87,002, and Córdoba and Rosario in Argentina each passed 22,000 flashes on October 7 alone, as spring storms built across the region.

Guayaquil, Ecuador placed third with 81,705 flashes. Its busiest day, October 26 with 24,817 flashes, was the storm that flooded dozens of neighborhoods and closed road tunnels across the city.

In the US, the summer storm season was over and the totals were far lower. **El Paso, Texas** led with 27,086 flashes, more than a third of them (10,122) on October 24, when severe thunderstorms with hail hit El Paso and Las Cruces. Midland, Texas (24,954) and Des Moines, Iowa (22,259) came next.

Most lightning: US cities

#	City	Flashes within 50 mi	Busiest day
1	El Paso, TX	27,086	Oct 24 · 10,122
2	Midland, TX	24,954	Oct 14 · 14,837
3	Des Moines, IA	22,259	Oct 9 · 14,733
4	Las Cruces, NM	19,905	Oct 24 · 6,370
5	McAllen, TX	19,736	Oct 1 · 14,375
6	Roswell, NM	19,137	Oct 25 · 7,232
7	Flagstaff, AZ	18,692	Oct 22 · 8,863
8	Rio Rancho, NM	16,969	Oct 23 · 4,771
9	Lawrence, KS	16,579	Oct 14 · 8,905
10	Boca Raton, FL	16,255	Oct 17 · 5,464
11	Topeka, KS	15,998	Oct 14 · 6,619
12	West Palm Beach, FL	15,922	Oct 17 · 4,229
13	Wichita, KS	15,374	Oct 14 · 10,091
14	Lubbock, TX	15,139	Oct 14 · 9,697
15	Jacksonville, FL	14,844	Oct 10 · 10,872

Busiest single days

- **Oct 8**: 37,325 flashes within 50 miles of Asunción, Paraguay
- **Oct 26**: 24,817 flashes within 50 miles of Guayaquil, Ecuador
- **Oct 7**: 22,969 flashes within 50 miles of Rosario, Argentina
- **Oct 7**: 22,795 flashes within 50 miles of Córdoba, Argentina
- **Oct 10**: 22,635 flashes within 50 miles of Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Not suitable as evidence for insurance, legal or damage claims. These are lightning flashes detected by satellite within 50 miles of a city center. They cannot establish whether lightning did or did not strike any specific place, or cause any damage.

Most lightning: Latin America and Canada

#	City	Flashes within 50 mi	Busiest day
1	Asunción, Paraguay	125,134	Oct 8 · 37,325
2	Ciudad del Este, Paraguay	87,002	Oct 12 · 15,221
3	Guayaquil, Ecuador	81,705	Oct 26 · 24,817
4	Manaus, Brazil	75,225	Oct 22 · 8,493
5	Maracaibo, Venezuela	68,419	Oct 21 · 7,213
6	Cali, Colombia	57,402	Oct 5 · 5,158
7	Medellín, Colombia	50,350	Oct 1 · 5,920
8	Barranquilla, Colombia	48,240	Oct 12 · 10,602
9	Córdoba, Argentina	47,135	Oct 7 · 22,795
10	Santa Cruz, Bolivia	46,680	Oct 10 · 22,635
11	Guatemala City, Guatemala	45,347	Oct 1 · 6,991
12	Bogotá, Colombia	44,946	Oct 1 · 5,958
13	Cartagena, Colombia	43,016	Oct 18 · 5,341
14	Valencia, Venezuela	42,733	Oct 12 · 8,020
15	Goiânia, Brazil	42,168	Oct 23 · 11,094

How these numbers are made

What is counted. Lightning flashes detected by NOAA's GOES Geostationary Lightning Mapper within 50 miles of each city center during the month (UTC). The satellite records total lightning, in-cloud and cloud-to-ground, located to within about 5–9 miles (8–14 km). Most flashes never reach the ground.

Overlapping circles. Nearby cities share part of their circles, so one flash can count for several cities. Adding rows together counts those flashes more than once.

Coverage. GOES-19 watched 742 of 744 hours. GOES-18 watched 650 of 744 hours. Unwatched hours are left out of the totals. Rankings include only cities watched for at least 95% of the month; 4 cities fell short and appear only in the CSV.

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Official version and data. https://strikecast.app/lightning/report/2026-10 has the current version of this report, its corrections, the full table for every monitored city (CSV), and the SHA-256 fingerprint of this PDF. A copy is authentic only if its fingerprint matches the one on that page.

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