



Empowering Children Through Life-Saving Knowledge: COPE Launches New *Lightning* Book

Hong Kong – June 30th, 2026 – COPE Disaster Champions announces the release of its latest book: ***Lightning***. This beautifully illustrated new addition to the COPE series helps children and families understand one of nature's most powerful hazards and learn how to stay safe during thunderstorms. Join the COPE Squad as they travel from Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean, where they are judging a Lightning awareness competition, all the way to Kampala, Uganda, exploring the science and impact of lightning, while putting their disaster risk reduction skills into action. From schools and farms to lakes and football fields, the squad meets children, families, and experts to learn how lightning behaves, who is most at risk, why disaster preparedness saves lives, and essential lightning safety actions before, during, and after storms, helping children recognize risks, choose safe places and respond when lightning threatens. It also emphasizes the importance of Early Warning Systems and inclusive education so that every child can access life-saving information. The book delivers a clear and powerful message: **WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS!**

“Through a compelling story and captivating illustrations, children learn how to recognize the early signs of lightning storms and act quickly to protect themselves and others by getting to safety”. – Véronique Bouchet, Senior Director of the Department of Science, Services and Capacity Development, WMO.

The book will officially launch on June 30th via an online [event](#). It was developed in collaboration with **the World Meteorological Organization, the Republic of Uganda – Office of the Prime Minister, the African Centres for Lightning Education Network, the National Lightning Safety Council, Meteorage, the Hong Kong Observatory, the Caribbean Meteorological Organization, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific**, and with contributions from global lightning experts and young DRR champions; it represents a truly international effort to promote lightning awareness.

About COPE

COPE is a series of free books created by author Martha Keswick, illustrator Mariko Jesse, and DRR expert Professor Timothy Sim. Designed to help children better prepare for disasters, the series covers hazards ranging from floods and earthquakes to volcanoes, cyclones and lightning. Through relatable stories, the resources teach coping skills and disaster preparedness in a charming and easy-to-understand way. Today, COPE books are used in more than 46 countries, have been translated into 26 languages, and are available online free of charge for anyone to download.

Make the difference. Be ready! <https://cope-disaster-champions.com/books/>

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