

## Catatumbo lightning

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Lake Maracaibo of Venezuela, **the most lightning-struck location on Earth**, frequently experiences “Catatumbo lightning”.



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### **About the Catatumbo lightning:**

- **Catatumbo lightning** is a specific natural lightning phenomenon that occurs at the mouth of the Catatumbo River, where it meets Lake Maracaibo.
- **Warm, moist air** from the Caribbean Sea collides with cooler air descending from the Andes mountains, forming cumulonimbus clouds, which helps generate electrical activity.
- This collision of air masses is the **factor responsible for the high frequency of lightning** in the area.

### **Impacts of Catatumbo lightning are twofold:**

- **Positive:** It ionizes the atmosphere, contributing to the generation of ozone.
- **Negative:** It poses fire hazards, among other risks.