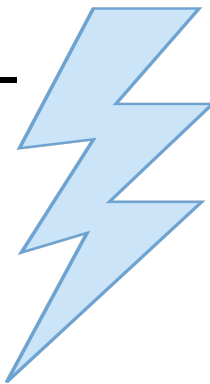


When Lightning Strikes the Heart: Cardiac Complications after Lightning Injury

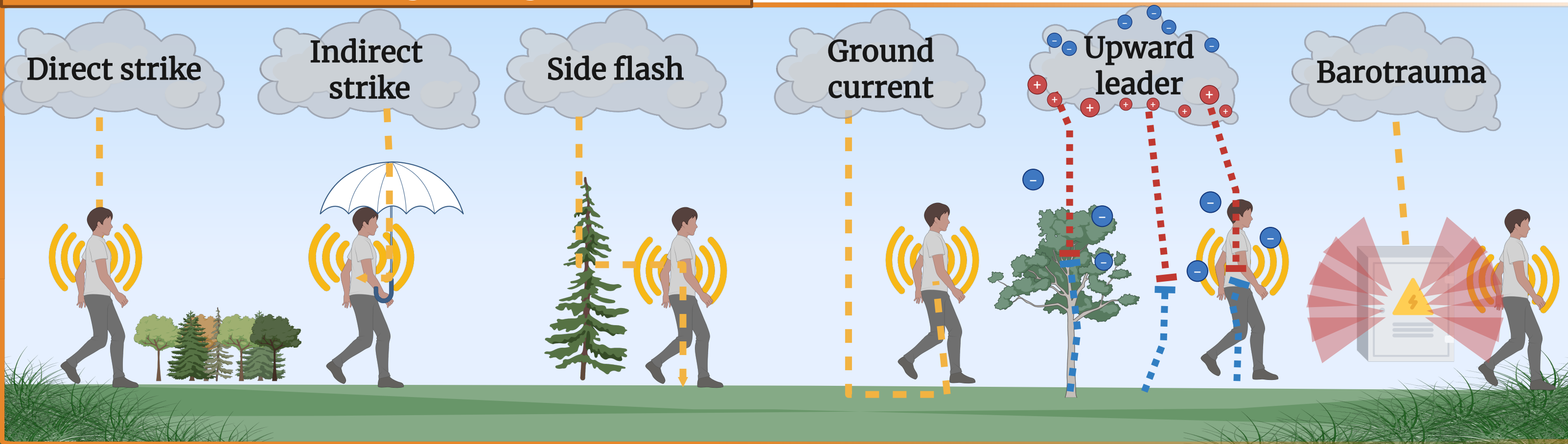
Key Points

Epidemiology

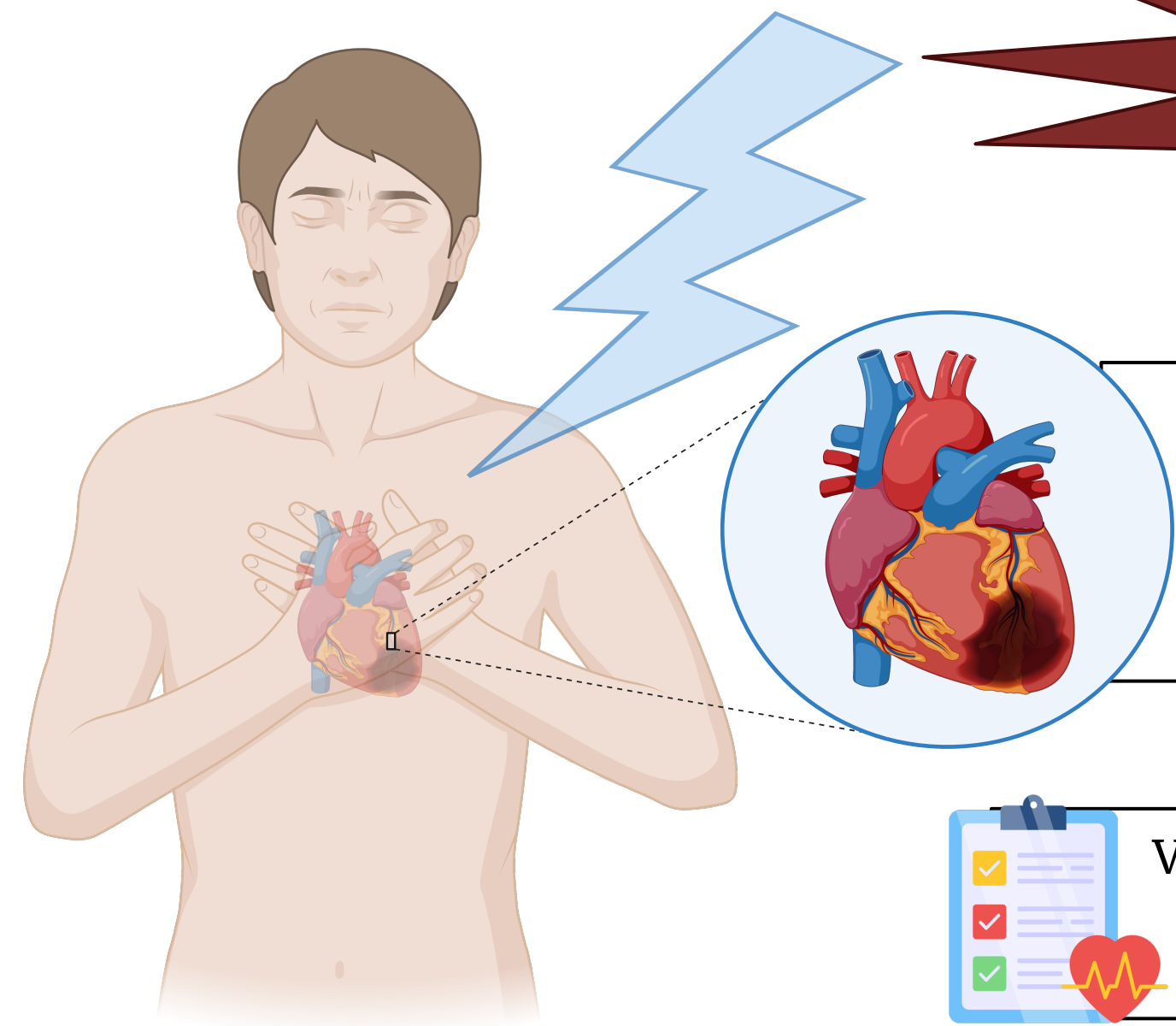
Lightning strikes are the 2nd weather-related **cause of death** in the US with rates expected to **↑ by 12%**



Mechanisms of Lightning Injury



Cardiovascular Complications



CV mortality due to lightning strikes is ~ 10%
2/3 occur in the 1st hour, often due to
arrhythmias or respiratory failure

Lightning strikes can **affect all components of the CV system** with a range of manifestations including **arrhythmias, myocardial dysfunction, STEMI, cardiac arrest, and death**



Victims of a lightning strike, including those without obvious injuries should be **monitored in a medical facility** as some cardiac manifestations may be delayed