

Minutes October 9, 1992 St. Anthony Lightning Data Center

1. Meeting commenced at 11:30 am at St. Anthony Hospital Central in conference room A. Adjourned at 1:30 pm.
2. Members Present: Boyson, Breed, Cherington, S. Clark, Heitkamp, Langford, Lammertse, Simmons, Yarnell, Zalkind.
3. New members were introduced:

Daniel W. Breed
National Center for Atmospheric Research
PO Box 3000
Boulder, CO 80307
497-8933

Daniel P. Lammertse, M.D.
Craig Hospital
3415 S. Clarkson
Englewood, CO 80110
789-8470

Warren Simmons
Executive Director
The Colorado Golf Association
5655 S. Yosemite Suite 101
Englewood, CO 80111
779-4653

Philip R. Yarnell, M.D.
4200 W. Conejos Place
Denver, CO 80204
623-5800

3. Michael Boyson presented data on hospital costs for lightning victims for first 6 months of 1992. Average number of days hospitalized = 2 days at about \$2000 per day. This data does not yet include the summer months for this year or include the hospitalizations of the more seriously injured patients. He will present the more complete data as it becomes available. Steve Clark will look into the insurance data regarding cost for property damage. Together we might know some of the cost of lightning damage. Data not included: rehabilitation costs, fatalities.
4. Warren Simmons demonstrated a portable M-10 Optical Lightning Detector which is being used by golfers. He also distributed information on lightning detection published by the PGA. He discussed a lightning "attracting system" now in place at Castle Pine Golf Course. This system is installed by a company in Louisville CO. Ken Langford has spoken with the CEO of the company, Mr. Bob Rapp of Vectron CO (665-5259). We will invite Mr. Rapp to a future meeting.
5. Joe Zalkind reported that he spoke with Judge Rivera of the Lowe Foundation. Joe suggests that we prepare a two page letter describing the extent of the lightning problem and what

we are finding in our search.

I have completed a grant application to the Provenant Health Partners Foundation and sent it to Debbie Clark for her signature to be returned to Joe.

6. Steve Clark circulated a letter sent to Ken Langford and Steve from Mary Fran Myers of Natural Hazards Research Information Center of University of Colorado. She responded to Ken and Steve's letter in AWO bulletin. She agrees with the thoughts that lightning injuries are underreported. She indicates that CDC may be interested in improving statistics. Dan Lammertse agrees, having spoken with people at the CDC. He and Joe Zalkind will pursue this avenue.

7. Where are we as far as our manuscript to be submitted for publication? I spoke via telephone with Ron Holle. He and Raul Lopez are now moved into their new laboratories in Norman, OK. Raul is at a meeting in Spain. Both Ron and Raul hope to have the manuscript ready for publication in the next month or so.

I wrote to the Editor of the JAMA, asking if they would consider our manuscript if it were simultaneously submitted to a journal of meteorology. I received a phone call from Dr. Richard Glass of the JAMA who said they would not publish an article with the identical data. However, they would consider an article on review of lightning including reference to the new data. After the meteorological article has been accepted, we plan to submit a second manuscript to JAMA.

8. I circulated a letter from Dr. Chris Andrews of Australia regarding the psychological component of lightning injuries. Phil Yarnell commented on a similarity to other head trauma patients (auto accidents, etc.) where patients with less severe trauma are more likely to present with posttraumatic stress syndrome, whereas patients with more severe trauma (cerebral lacerations, hemorrhages, etc.) are not as likely to have this psychological component. Dr. Lammertse commented that most spinal cord injuries are second to a "blast" effect rather than direct trauma to the cord from foreign objects, etc. We will correspond further with Dr. Andrews.

9. Ken Langford brought a videotape on lightning that was produced in Chicago. It included material supplied by Ken and comments by Dr. Mary Ann Cooper. We all agreed that the tape was informative and well done.

10. Next meeting: Friday, November 13, 1992 at 11:30 am in Conference Room A at St. Anthony Hospital Central.

Have a happy Halloween!

Respectfully submitted:



Michael Cherington, M.D.
Chairman, Lightning Data Center.