

- > Sept. 8, 2000 Minutes
- > Lightning Data Center
- > Centura Health - St. Anthony Hospital

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- > Quote of the Month:

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> "Here on an elevated platform sit Presidents and Secretaries, behind and above them the white busts of Mirabeau, of Franklin, and various others...Facing this is the Tribune...From that point thunder the voices which shake all Europe: down below, in silence, are forging the thunderbolts and the firebrands."

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> Thomas Carlyle, The French Revolution 1792

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- > 1. Meeting began at 11:30 am and adjourned at 1:00 pm.

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- > 2. Members present: Anderson, Bergschneider, Breed, Cherington, M
> Coniglio, Daniels, Foley, Glancy, Hawkes, Kithil, Lines, McDonough,
> Schwartz, Sellon, Wallace, Yarnell.

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- > 3. These minutes reflect the comments of members present and do not
> represent official positions of LDC.

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- > 4. Most of the meeting was devoted to two outstanding presentations. The first presentation given by Gene Lines and Jeff Sellon was on the topic: Lightning Rods and NFPA 780 Standards. The second topic given by Kevin Bergschneider was about Lightning and Golf Courses. I cannot do justice to each topic in these minutes, but I will mention a few of the subjects that were discussed.

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> Gene and Jeff informed us that, as a result of a lawsuit and the subsequent report of an independent committee the Standards for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems (Code NFPA 780) are to be terminated. The implication of such action may be wide. Organizations that have had standards to date include National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Underwriters Laboratory (UL). Gene and Jeff stressed that Code 780 dealt with "installation" of protection systems and not with "performance."

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> Kevin told us that golf courses vary widely in the way they deal with lightning safety issues. Signage is common in most. The golf course with the most sophisticated system utilizes the following measures:

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- > a. Early streamer protection around the club house.
- > b. Phone contact with the National Weather Service.
- > c. Golf carts equipped with pager systems.

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> There are about 5 to 10 deaths each year on golf courses in the United States. The states with the highest numbers of lightning-related deaths on golf course are:

- > Florida, Michigan, Texas, New York, and Tennessee.

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> There may be problems with some small shelter structures. The weak "link" in the lightning rod protection system can be inadequate shielding on the downward conductor.

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- > 5. I brought the following article (abstracted in part here):

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> Leestma JE, Torres JV. Unappreciated agenesis of cerebellum in an adult.

> Am J Forensic Med Path 2000;21:155-161.

A 38 year old man was found dead at home. "He apparently enjoyed exploring and opening electrical appliances, but was not able or interested in repairing them...Examination of the scene revealed that the deceased had apparently been exploring the interior of a microwave oven and had apparently attempted to open a panel on the device with a

screwdriver...His right hand was holding a wire that apparently had come from the interior of the oven...Autopsy revealed...the cerebellar hemispheres were almost entirely absent...Congenital conditions that affect the cerebellum are not uncommon."

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> 6. Stephen Wallin sent the following announcement to be distributed at the meeting.

> Denver Area Physics Teachers Meeting

> Includes Bio-physics presentation.

> Tuesday, September 19, 2000 at Denver University

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> 7. Thomas Rinehart called about a question brought to him by some Centura nurses who take phone calls throughout the day from the public about health matters. The question: What should they do during lightning storms. Rich Kithil and Mike Foley and others discussed this and several points were made. Although people using phones in the Hospital were probably not a high risk, and that surge protection devices are probably worth using, the best way to reduce the risk is to use cordless phones.

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> 8. Rich Kithil informed us that there will be a conference sponsored by Global Atmospheric, Inc. in Tucson, Arizona on lightning issues on November 6 and 7, 2000. Rich brought a damaged traffic signal circuit board. The traffic signal was struck by lightning in Virginia Beach, Va.

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> 9. Phil Yarnell informed us that, to his memory, the first major television sports event was cancelled recently because of lightning. It was opening day of the Virginia Tech football team.

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> represent official positions of LDC.

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> 11. Our Guest Speaker at the next (October 13, 2000) meeting will be:

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> E. Philip Krider, PhD

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> Institute of Atmospheric Physics

> University of Arizona

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> Dr. Krider's topic: Recent Advances in Lightning Research

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> 12. Next meeting: Friday, October 13, 2000 at 11:30 am in the Main

> Auditorium of St. Anthony Central Hospital.

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> Respectfully submitted,

> Michael Cherington, MD

> Chair, Scientific Committee, LDC