



**LIGHTNING DATA CENTER**  
**October 13, 2006**  
**Minutes**  
**St. Anthony Hospital, Denver, CO**



Lightning Data Center  
St. Anthony Central Hospital  
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Quote of the Month: LIGHTNING NEVER STRIKES TWICE IN THE SAME PLACE

"An unusual event never occurs twice under the same circumstances or to the same person. The proverb has been traced back to P.H. Myers (1857). First attested in the United States in 'The Man in Lower Ten' (1909) by American writer Mary Roberts Rinehart (1876-1958)." From "Random House Dictionary of Popular Proverbs and Sayings" by Gregory Y. Titelman (Random House, New York, 1996). A second reference says the "familiar (and patently untrue) superstition" was first recorded in print by Hamilton Myers in 'Thrilling Adventures of the Prisoner of the Border' (1857)." That must be the P.H. Myers mentioned in the first reference. The "untrue" claim is evidenced by the experience of "Shenandoah Park ranger Roy C. Sullivan, who was struck by lightning on an incredible seven different times between 1942 and 1977. He lived to tell about every one of the seven (a world's record), and his scorched park ranger hats were put on exhibit." From "Wise Words and Wives' Tales: The Origins, Meanings and Time-Honored Wisdom of Proverbs and Folk Sayings Olde and New" by Stuart Flexner and Doris Flexner (Avon Books, New York, 1993).

We are all aware of stories of lightning striking people (Lee Trevino twice) or causing forest fires. Trevino is a 2-time winner of 3 majors-U.S. Open (1968,71), British Open (1971-72) and PGA (1974,84); Player of Year once on PGA Tour (1971) and 3 times with Seniors (1990,92,94); 27 PGA Tour and 29 Senior Tour wins. He said, "When I am on a golf course and it starts to rain and lightning, I hold up my one iron, cause I know even God can not hit a one iron."

(source: Phrase Finder: [www.phrases.org.uk/bulletin\\_board/30/messages/1489/html](http://www.phrases.org.uk/bulletin_board/30/messages/1489/html))

1. Meeting began at 11:50 am and adjourned at 1:20 pm. (as the calendar dictates, if there is a Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be an LDC meeting!)
2. Members present: Foley, R Gift, Y Gift, - McDonough, Mullan, Wachtel, Yarnell, Wells and P. Wermuth, D. Wermuth.

3. Announcements included:
  - a. The sad news of the passing of Dr. Elizabeth Gourbiere in August from cancer. Dr. Gourbiere was a talented physician who dedicated her life to the study of electrical and lightning injuries. She was a prolific author and speaker on the subject. Dr. Gourbiere delivered a keynote lecture at the September 2004 International Lightning Protection Conference in Avignon as one of her final public appearances. -She will be greatly missed.
  - b. The International Conference on Lightning and Static Electricity 2007 (ICOLSE 2007) will be held August 28-31, 2007 at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris France ([www.iscolse.org](http://www.iscolse.org)).
  - c. LDC members (including corresponding members) are asked to suggest topics and speakers for future LDC meetings. - Attending members are asked to volunteer to chair a series of three meetings next year (June-July-Aug and Sept.-Oct.-Nov.)
  
4. Dr. Yarnell presented [an agricultural worker a patient who reported a bright flash & bang while in contact with a metal fence late in the day about a 1/2 hour after a thunderstorm had ended. He was knocked out but had no burns or marks. He has persistent complaints of tinnitus, insomnia, short term memory lapses, headaches and frustration intolerance. He is able to function and work at one year post strike. This is interpreted as a post-lightning strike encephalopathy.](#)
  
5. A round-table discussion was conducted. In summary:
  - a. Denis Wermuth brought in an article from an Australian newspaper (10/9/06) that reported an injury to a female while she was brushing her teeth after showering. - Apparently she bent over to get water from the facet to rinse her mouth and her buttocks touched the wet shower curtain, just when lightning struck the building, according to a first responder. - She was reported to have had injuries to her anus. Dr. Wachtel, after a moment of deep consideration noted: "this was a lightning strike from down under"!!!
  - b. Robert Gift circulated photos of lightning rods he photographed while in China.
  - c. Karen Wells took custody of the LDC "Library" materials. - She will be working with other library professionals on setting up a catalog database of the materials so that LDC members may "check out" reference materials. - More to follow.
  
- 6.4. Mike Foley shared photos and short videos of the tests performed in late September at Lightning Technologies Inc (Pittsfield MA) in conjunction with the National Geographic TV production "Struck by Lightning" (scheduled to air sometime in the second quarter of 2007). The tests demonstrated the "recreation" of a lightning injury this July to

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a teenager in Colorado. Ken Langford and Mike Foley did an on-site visit to where the injury occurred with the NG-TV crew in early September.

5. Next meeting: Friday, November 10, 2006 at 11:30 am in the Main Auditorium of St. Anthony Central Hospital. The topic will be "The Gamma Knife." Speaker: Joe Henderson

These minutes do not represent official positions of LDC or attending individuals.

These minutes are intended to capture the essence of the meeting as recorded and respectfully submitted by:

Michael J. Foley  
Co-Chair  
LDC Administrative Committee