

**LIGHTNING DATA CENTER
MINUTES
March 14, 2008
ST. ANTHONY CENTRAL HOSPITAL, DENVER, CO
www.stanthonyldc.org**

Monthly Quote: "Before a thunderstorm there is a build-up of tension which is only relieved by the explosive force of thunder and lightning. In human affairs there must be a clear distinction between the penalties for small and great crimes. Retribution for wrongdoing must be swiftly and surely applied if greater problems are to be prevented."
-I Ching

1. Meeting began at 11:55 AM and adjourned at 1:30 PM.
2. Members present: Burrows, Elder, Foley, Gahagan, Gift, Gift-Cui, Langford, McDonough, Mullan, Nibbe, Wells, and Yarnell. Michael Foley moderated the meeting.
3. Dick Burrows reported that there has been no word from the U.S. Forest Service concerning the Lightning Safety Poster for hikers. He suggests that the LDC group should consider the logistical matters of financing and printing the poster, as well as distribution. Ideally we would resolve these issues before the lightning season. Perhaps our members can bring suggestions to the April meeting for consideration. Dick has been in communication with a regional park supervisor whose area includes Staunton State Park near Pine Junction, CO. She has expressed interest in our poster, and Dick suggests we create a version of the poster for recreational areas which do not involve long hikes, such as reservoirs. Dick also mentioned a history of electrical fires in television sets, and suggested that public knowledge of the hazard was suppressed. Michael Foley suggested that the "quick-on" circuitry was responsible for the hazard. Dick also brought us up to date on a patient who had been struck by lightning. Phil Yarnell remarked that the lightning strike to the patient in question was undocumented. Finally, Dick circulated two photos of a Tesla coil interacting with a Faraday cage.
4. Al Nibbe discussed a book that describes a man who was struck by lightning in bed, and subsequently developed an "oily cyst" in the brain region. Phil Yarnell reminded us that Michael Cherington had published a similar case history, where a tumor had developed in a lightning struck patient subsequent to a negative MRI.
5. Michael Foley read an article from the NFPA Journal suggesting that lightning sparks residential fires resulting in 12 deaths annually, and 12,000 wildland fires (about 16% of all wildland fires) annually. Michael had nothing to report from Bob Wallace about the new status of the LDC within St. Anthony Hospital.
6. Phil Yarnell asked if anyone was familiar with "globes of lightning," a toy which shows an electrical discharge in a glass sphere. Robert Gift described the objects, also known as Plasma Globes, as a small Tesla Coil contained in a partial vacuum and containing a gas which determines the color of the discharge.

Some globes employ a microphone to vary the discharge with sound. If you have further interest, please check: <http://www.powerlabs.org/plasmaglobes.htm>

7. Ken Langford suggested that the LDC website should be revisited and updated. He suggested adding more photos and web links. Karen Wells suggested adding a "contact us" email address to field questions from web visitors. Michael Foley suggests having a "download" section, for items such as the Lightning Safety Poster. All members are encouraged to look at the current website and send your suggestions to the Admin Committee.
http://www.stanthonyhosp.org/index.php?s=clinical_specialties_7

8. This month's featured speaker was a local homeowner who suspects problems with electromagnetic fields in her household. Due to HIPAA considerations, we will use only her first name, Hanna.

Hanna lives in a neighborhood in southwest metro Denver, and her particular residential lot is located at the junction of two Xcel Energy power distribution loops, which are buried. She has lived in the house for 5 years, and about two years after moving in she began to experience health problems. Her son has developed allergies and asthma, and she has experienced physical tingling, tinnitus, dry mucous membranes, inflamed joints, headaches and numbness. She had explored many possible causes before considering the electromagnetic environment as a problem.

Hanna has had Xcel Energy out to test her home electrical system, as well as the distribution equipment in her immediate vicinity. They lent her a gauss meter, with which she measured levels up to 30 milligauss (mG). She suggested that 4mG is the threshold for safe environmental exposure. An interesting website relating to this can be found here: http://vitatech.net/emf_map4.php4.

Some of her home wiring was found to be defective, but even after re-wiring, she was measuring high EMF around her plumbing pipes. Hanna presented her testimonial to us, along with some of the measurements made by herself, and Xcel, and asked for our input on the problem.

A lively discussion followed, including ideas of proper bonding and grounding, the construction of an indoor Faraday cage, or even metal siding to in essence make the whole house a Faraday cage, running a household on DC power, and the possibility of moving to a different location. Hanna feels morally obligated to not simply pass off the problem to a new family.

Dick Burrows suggested that published papers from Sweden were the least biased on this topic, as many US based studies are funded by the electrical utilities. He also suggested that anyone interested in the electromagnetic environment could search antennasearch.com to see what is close to their physical location. Michael Foley suggested that the bentonite soil in her area makes for a poor earth ground, which might contribute to the problem. Gil McDonough suggested that her symptoms resembled Sjogren's Syndrome.

In the discussion that followed the adjournment of the meeting, Michael Foley and Ken Langford discussed the similarity of Hanna's circumstance to dairy farmers, who some years ago experienced an adverse impact on their cows due to stray voltage. Michael suggested that a fix has been devised for dairy farmers, and Ken suggested that Hanna might implement a similar fix. The fix in question can be found here: <http://www.ronkelectrical.com/>, and the product can be found by clicking on "other products."

Another possible solution is an Active Magnetic Field Cancellation System, as referenced in the above cited Vitatech website.

Thank you, Hanna for sharing your experiences with us.

9. These minutes do not represent official positions of the LDC or its members. They simply reflect the comments made at the meeting.
10. Next meeting: Friday, April 11, 2008 at 11:30 AM in the Main Auditorium of St. Anthony Central Hospital.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Langford, president, Mr. Random Enterprises, Inc.