

**LIGHTNING DATA CENTER
MINUTES
APRIL 10, 2009
ST. ANTHONY CENTRAL HOSPITAL, DENVER, CO
www.stanthonyldc.org**

Monthly Quote: "In spite of all my meekness, if I have a little weakness, it's a passion for a flight of thunderbolts!" found on the Preface page of Seminars in Neurology, Vol. 15, No. 3, September 1995, to which both Dr. Cherington and Mary Ann Cooper contributed.

1. Meeting began at 11:50 AM and adjourned at 1:10 PM.
2. Members present: Clark, Gift, Cui-Gift, Wells, Wachtel, Stewart, Langford, Foley, and Keen. Clark moderated the meeting.
3. Greg Stewart presented "Lightning in the News" information. Discovery News had an article stating most lightning strikes tended to occur in mid-week (Wednesdays and Thursdays) caused by the build-up of aerosols from pollution. In other news tidbits, a nine year-old child was killed late last year, and in April 2009, 5 people died in Cambodia in separate lightning-related incidents. Finally, a Boeing 737 had to return to Melbourne, Australia, after being hit by lightning while in the air.

Greg mentioned some work by Colin Price at Tel Aviv University on the "Flash Project", which measures lightning strikes. The most intense strikes are located and that information is used to predict flash flooding. One of many links describing this work is:

<http://www.aftau.org/site/News2?id=8033&page=NewsArticle>

Finally, Greg brought to our attention an article on engineerlive.com claiming lightning protection systems have reduced the number of lightning strikes by 80% within a 500-meters radius of a nuclear power plant. Rich Kithil disputes this claim. The link to the article is: http://www.engineerlive.com/Power-Engineer/Nuclear_Power/Solving_the_lightning_strike_problem_at_nuclear_power_plant/21086/lightning

4. Ken Langford's project to design a field study to gauge the response of hikers to our lightning safety poster is in a holding pattern as we are still trying to secure funding for the project. The initial cost estimate is \$3000. There was some discussion as to whether or not to issue the poster in lieu of the study. It was decided that the poster needs to be vetted prior to issuance. So, if any of you know of any sources of funding, even partial funding, that we might be able to tap into, please let me know at sclarktoto@eml.cc.

Ken also brought in an article entitled "When Lightning Strikes: Bolting Down the Facts and Fiction" from the April 2009 edition of the Journal of Emergency Medical Services. The article discusses some of the myths associated with lightning strikes and then counters the myths with factual information. The link to the article is:

http://www.jems.com/news_and_articles/articles/jems/3404/when_lightning_strikes.html

5. Howard Wachtel noted that Joy Hirsch, among others, used fMRI to locate tumors relative to sensitive areas of the brain. While this is thought to be beneficial, Howard feels there is a problem. He feels the tumors, when exposed to high magnetic fields, such as those used in fMRI, tend to be accelerated, which leads to an increase in the size of the tumor.
6. Prior to the meeting, four boxes of books, periodicals, articles, and notes were examined by the LDC Executive Committee. One of the boxes was from Dr. Cherington and the other three were from Michael Foley (I think). The Executive Committee will be spending some time sorting through these materials and eventually cataloging them. It is our hope to ultimately put some of these resources on our web page.
7. These minutes do not represent official positions of LDC or its members. They simply reflect the comments made at the meeting.
8. Next meeting: Friday, May 12, 2009 at 11:45 AM in the Main Auditorium of St. Anthony Central Hospital. Subject/Speaker: Speaker, TBA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven E. Clark, Consulting Meteorologist