

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES
MAY 14, 2010
ST. ANTHONY CENTRAL HOSPITAL, DENVER, CO
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Monthly Quote: “More deaths from lightning occur in Michigan, more than any other state except Florida.” From Position Statement: The Prevention of Injuries in Amateur Football, issued by the Michigan Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness, Health, and Sports. On the web at: <http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/vipf2/football.htm>

1. Meeting began at 11:55 AM and adjourned at 1:05 PM.
2. Members present: Clark, Gift, Cui-Gift, Nibbe, Michael and Nancy Cherington, Wells, Yarnell, and Elder. Clark moderated the meeting.
3. Clark brought an article found on the internet. The National Football League gave a \$1 million grant to Boston University School of Medicine to study brain injuries in football players. The study is intended to track the long-term effects of repetitive brain injuries. This issue was discussed earlier this year during the January meeting, when Phil and Howard raised the issue and wondered if a similar situation occurred with people who are repeatedly shocked by electricity. Here’s the link to the NFL article:
<http://www.nfl.com/news/story?id=09000d5d817a2623&template=with-video-with-comments&confirm=true>
4. Phil presented the case of a man that was electrically shocked while on a construction job. It was a windy day and he was holding an aluminum ladder steady while another worker climbed up the ladder. Somehow, a metal gutter that was being installed simultaneously came into contact with both the ladder and a high-voltage power line. The man climbing up the ladder was unhurt, but the fellow holding the ladder was shocked, getting burns on the hands and also on the outside toe of each foot. The man went into cardiac arrest and was given CPR. Radiological tests were negative. The man does not remember anything of the event. Robert Gift wondered if he was standing with the outside of his toes touching the ladder. Robert also thinks the man was subject to 7200 volts.
5. Karen Wells wondered if anyone knew of any correlation between earthquakes, or more specifically, earth lights and/or electrical activity which precedes earthquakes, and heart attacks. She said a study had been done which showed such a correlation exists, but she could not remember the name of the paper.

6. Phil and his wife took an around-the-world cruise last winter. While outside with a group of people near the town of Durbin, in South Africa, Phil noticed a thunderstorm was rapidly approaching and lightning was flashing to within a mile of their location. Phil instructed the group to stop what they were doing and to head for shelter. By the time shelter was reached, Phil said it was raining as hard as he had ever seen in his life and the lightning was continuous. Phil stated many pictures were taken on this trip. We'll have Phil give a presentation of his trip!
7. Cherington noted the May/June 2010 edition of Weatherwise magazine in its Weatherwatch column, stated the Alaska Lightning Detection System detected 47 strikes of lightning in 5 days during February 2010. The article further states the strikes were all at mid-month and all of the strikes were along the Gulf of Alaska coast. Additionally, a single lightning strike was detected on January 15, 2010 on the north side of the Alaskan Peninsula.
8. These minutes do not represent official positions of LDC or its members. They simply reflect the comments made at the meeting.
9. Next meeting: Friday, June 11, 2010 at 11:45 AM in Main Auditorium at St. Anthony Central Hospital. Subject: Dr. Al Nibbe will be speaking and the title of his presentation is: "Shocking! Very Shocking!".

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven E. Clark, Consulting Meteorologist