

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2012
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL WEST, LAKEWOOD, CO

Monthly Quote: "." - Mark Twain

1. The meeting began at 11:45 PM and adjourned at 1:05 PM.
2. Members present: Clark, Yarnell, Gift, Cui-Gift, Elder, Claus, Langford, Mendez, and Brown. Clark moderated the meeting.
3. Clark noted the deadline for submitting papers to the 2012 International Conference on Lightning Protection in Vienna has been extended to January 31, 2012.
4. Ken Langford reminded us of the conference coming up this April in Broomfield, CO. Below are two links for the conference. The first is a page describing the conference and the second is a price list for the event.
<http://www.vaisala.com/en/events/ildcilmc/Pages/default.aspx>
<https://www.eventville.com/catalog/eventregistration1.asp?eventid=1008671>
5. Ken showed a photo of an axe that had been hit by lightning in the Tetons. The lightning literally burned a hole through the aluminum skin of the axe handle.
6. Roswell "Roz" Brown showed us his portable lightning detector, manufactured by a firm in Colorado Springs (strikealert.com). Brown also told us of some of his adventures with the Alpine Search and Rescue team. During his 15-year time with them, he has never performed a rescue of a lightning strike survivor. He did, however, recall some tales of a military group that was hit while up in the mountains, causing some injuries.
7. Robert said some Chinese buildings have cables around the top, but he was uncertain whether or not the cables are connected to a down conductor. Robert was invited to give a slide show of some of the buildings he saw during his visit to China.
8. Phil Yarnell received a letter from Mary Ann Cooper, who received a letter from a family relative of a patient who was hit by lightning. The patient suffers from pain, memory loss, and headaches. Patient is temperature insensitive, and he has pain and headaches, which cannot be defined. An evaluation of symptoms was requested from Dr. Cooper. As Dr. Cooper is no longer actively practicing, she recommended the patient to Phil, as he is the only physician she knew in the entire U.S. who works actively with lightning-strike patients.

9. After doing a Google search for “lightning injury doctor”, Ken Langford found a website called drugs.com. Part of this website addressed lightning injuries and suggested how to care for them. One of the remedies was a blood transfusion, which Phil had never heard of.
10. Phil and Roz recalled the patient struck by ball lightning while in a commercial airplane. The lightning had traveled down the aisle of the plane and enveloped the whole body of this man. The man suffered injuries from his contact with the ball lightning. This man couldn't find his way to the hospital, yet he is quite capable of singing.
11. Phil told us, in the olden days of medicine, a set of consistent symptoms over several patients was (and still is) called a syndrome. When trying to determine the cause of a disease or some other ailment, doctors looked to define these syndromes in order to better diagnose and treat future patients. Nowadays, doctors tend to use radiological means for the same purpose.
12. Phil advised us the Neurocritical Care Society is holding a meeting here in the Denver area in October. Phil recommended Dr. Cherington for a presentation on lightning injury and another physician for a presentation on high-altitude injury. Here's a link announcing the meeting:
<http://www.neurocriticalcare.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=4056>
13. LDC Disclaimer: These minutes do not represent official positions of LDC or its members. They simply reflect the comments made at the meeting. Furthermore, the LDC does not explicitly or implicitly recommend or endorse *any* product or service. Any service or product presented in these minutes is done so for the purpose of discussion and analysis. The merit (or lack thereof) is open for consideration and review by the entire membership.
14. Next meeting: Friday, February 13, 2012 at 11:45 AM at St. Anthony Hospital West. Conference Room E. Subject: TBA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven E. Clark, Consulting Meteorologist

In Case You Missed It...Lightning in the News

This is a monthly listing of news and videos about lightning and allied areas as reported in the media. A headline is listed, followed by a link to the article. Please note that some of the links are perishable, which means you'll need to go to the source for the article. Enjoy!

No lightning in the news this time.