

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES
May 11, 2012
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL WEST, LAKEWOOD, CO

Monthly Quote: " Like a lot of other Americans, Bill Isles bought Mega Millions lottery tickets on Thursday. Later he joked with a friend that he had a better chance of getting struck by lightning than winning the record jackpot. That night, Isles walked out into his backyard and got struck by lightning." The Wichita Eagle, Friday, May 11, 2012. Link: <http://www.kansas.com/2012/03/30/2277915/wichita-man-hopes-to-win-lottery.html>

1. The meeting began at 11:45 AM and adjourned at 1:00 PM. Members present: Clark, Yarnell, Gift, Cui-Gift, Wachtel, Keen, Elder, Cherington (Michael and Nancy), and Larson. Clark moderated the meeting.
2. LDC is presently working with St. Anthony's personnel to get a website up and running. Stay tuned for further updates.
3. Phil Yarnell reported getting an e-mail from Dr. Mary Ann Cooper regarding a lawsuit where part of the case involves an issue with electrical shock seizure disorder. Phil told us of a client of his who appears to have had the same thing after a lightning incident. The patient had previous episodes of seizure that went undiagnosed, possibly because they were "mini-seizures", which did not cause any outward problems for the patient. Patient was inside a truck helping to clean up a wooded area with a window rolled down, and was reaching for, or had already touched the radio in the vehicle, when lightning struck nearby. Patient recalled seeing a bright flash of light followed immediately by very loud thunder, and then lost consciousness briefly. After regaining consciousness, patient did not feel right and reported feeling "disconnected". Patient had pain in the back, jaw, hip, ankles, and feet, and felt worse after the strike. Patient was unable to walk due to weakness in the legs. About two weeks later, the legs were feeling numb. Patient remembered right before the strike, the hair on the arms stood straight up. Patient describes the joints as feeling goofy. Patient is aware of multiple changes following the strike: personality, pain, sexual, etc. Patient has tended to feel more fatigued than in pain and sleeps a lot, but does not feel rested. Patient has panic attacks when thunderstorms occur, and even suffered an attack while in a room with other people watching a lightning video. Patient left the room to regain composure. After the strike, patient went to the dentist, and the dentist removed all of the amalgam fillings from the mouth. Howard Wachtel speculated that may have been done to minimize any charge potential in the mouth due to dissimilar materials in the mouth, which could have been a factor in the jaw pain.

4. Steve Clark presented an article from Science Daily titled “DC3: Chemistry of Thunderstorms”. The Deep Convective Clouds and Chemistry (DC3) field experiment, based out of Salina, Kansas, will be conducted to learn about the impact of large thunderstorms on the concentration of ozone and other chemicals in the upper atmosphere. Boulder’s NCAR, along with other collaborators, will be conducting the experiment, flying in the skies above Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Alabama. One of the key objectives is to learn more about the formation of nitrogen oxides by lightning. Nitrogen oxides are thought to be a primary component in the formation of ozone on the upper atmosphere. Here’s the link: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/05/120509171415.htm>
5. Clark also advised of a COCORAHs webinar on YouTube about lightning, presented by the LDC’s Ron Holle, titled: “Lightning and Its Impacts”. The video is approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes long. Here’s the link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ek_PXi2j8Is&list=PLDDC91E3A979406CE&index=6&feature=plpp_video
6. Clark presented a stock tip sent to him by an investment firm about a company called SEFE, Inc. They design systems to generate electricity from the earth’s natural electric potential using wires suspended by tethered balloons. They have recently been awarded 4 patents for some of their hardware and they expect this to be viable for mining companies in remote areas, the military, and other segments.
7. Next meeting: Friday, June 8, 2012 at 11:45 AM at St. Anthony Hospital West in the Bighorn Room. Subject: PLEASE NOTE: The Bighorn Room is now the “official home” of the LDC.

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!

Lightning strikes incredibly unlucky man in the scrotum

<http://now.msn.com/now/0504-scrutum-lightning.aspx>

Woman Injured When Lightning Strikes Tree

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2012/05/06/woman-injured-when-lightning-strikes-tree/>