

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES
January 11, 2013
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL WEST, LAKEWOOD, CO
On the Web at: www.stanthonyhosp.org/ldc

Monthly Quote: “But dying from a bolt of electricity may not be nearly as frightening as surviving one.” From “After Shock”, 5280 The Denver Magazine, January 2013.

1. The meeting began at 11:50 AM and adjourned at 1:10 PM. Members Present: Clark, Elder, Claus, Wells, Nibbe, Gift, Cui-Gift, and Yarnell. Clark moderated the meeting.
2. Clark presented an article from the Denver Post dated January 11, 2013 regarding Junior Seau. Researchers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) reported Seau's abnormalities were consistent with chronic traumatic encephalopathy and noted the findings were similar to autopsies done on other people with repetitive head injuries. According to his family, during the later part of his life, Seau had episodes of irrationality, forgetfulness, insomnia, and depression. Seau's older son played football for two years, but later switched to lacrosse. Seau's younger son has shown no interest in playing football.
3. In a related article found on AOL News, the athletic apparel maker Reebok, along with a company called MJ10, has constructed a small flexible sensor, which is designed to be worn inside the helmet of an athlete. The device will detect blows to the head and will rate the severity of the impacts (mild and severe) and where on the head the impacts occur.
4. Rich Collier reviewed the case of the woman struck while driving her car profiled in last month's minutes. Collier's past work in triggered lightning research has found holes in metallic surfaces that are very small – no larger than pinholes, in some cases. Thus, Rich was very surprised when he read of the size of the holes in the car in this case. Rich has asked if we could find out the year, make, and model of the car, so that we might be able to find out what material was used to manufacture the parts of the car that were hit. Howard Wachtel initially thought a bullet or some other object penetrated into the car. Rich wondered if that part of the car was made of plastic or some composite material, which might explain the size of the hole. Clark will look into securing further information.
5. The eZine 5280 has published an article about four people who suffered lightning strikes in the Rocky Mountain west. As of Wednesday, January 16, the LDC has received an inquiry of interest in the LDC from a lightning strike survivor who has read the article. The LDC can expect more queries.

6. Dr. Cherington wanted to share this bit of world history: “I want share a fact of history with you. I am reading a history of World War II and Winston Churchill by Manchester and Reid (super book). In May 1943, Churchill and others were on a flight from Washington DC to Newfoundland to Gibraltar to Algiers. On the leg from Newfoundland to Gibraltar, the plane was struck twice by lightning. One minor additional adventure in the remarkable life of Winston S. Churchill.”
7. Next meeting: Friday, February 8, 2013 at 11:45 AM at St. Anthony Hospital West. Conference Room TBA. This will be a round table meeting. NOTE: Ken Langford will moderate the February meeting, as I will be out of town.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven E. Clark, Consulting Meteorologist

In Case You Missed It...Lightning Links

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

Researchers: NFL's Seau had Brain Disease

http://www.denverpost.com/ci_22345856/junior-seau-had-brain-disease-cte?IADID=Search-www.denverpost.com-www.denverpost.com

Gorman, Michael. Engadget via AOL News. January 11, 2013. “Reebok and MC10 Team Up to Build Checklight, A Head Impact Indicator (Hands On)”

<http://www.engadget.com/2013/01/11/mc10-reebok-checklight-hands-on/>

Video: Man electrocuted while swinging on pylon

<http://www.ems1.com/fire-ems/articles/1390168-Video-Man-electrocuted-while-swinging-on-pylon/>

“After Shock”, 5280 The Denver Magazine. January 2013.

<http://www.5280.com/magazine/2013/01/after-shock>

The Last Lion: Defender of the Realm. The third and final volume of Winston Churchill's biography. Written by William Manchester and Paul Reid.