

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES
November 8, 2013
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL WEST, LAKEWOOD, CO
On the Web at: www.stanthonyhosp.org/ldc

Monthly Quote: “What I remember is just a load boom and it dropped me to my knees and then it hit me again.” From a Texas man who had sought shelter under a tree during an off-road racing event. See the minutes and the article in the Lightning Links section.

1. The meeting began at 11:45 AM and adjourned at 1:10 PM. Members Present: Clark, Collier, Cherington, Yarnell, Elder, Swanson, and Langford. Clark moderated the meeting.
2. Carl Swanson presented a case history of a Texas man struck by lightning. He had been driving an ATV, which had a metal roll cage without windows. He got caught in a rainstorm and sought shelter under a tree and was struck two times. He was struck, knocked down to his knees, and then struck again. From the description of the strike in the media, he most likely was struck twice in a very short time frame – perhaps by the lightning channel being re-energized for the second strike. The man said the lightning hit him in the chest and went out near his left wrist. Following the strike, the man went to the doctor and was told his tingling sensation would subside within a week, which prompted several responses from members of the Lightning Strike and Electric Shock Survivors International group. It is unknown if the tingling has stopped or it is ongoing.

Some in LSESSI felt the doctors were being dishonest in their assessments. Others were simply frustrated in not knowing whom to turn to and feeling as if they are not being heard. Phil accurately pointed out some doctors properly acknowledged the limits of current medical understanding whereas others think the patients are, at the very least, being deceptive regarding what ails them. Phil says this dichotomy amongst physicians is well known. Ken Langford urged Phil to publish this dichotomy somewhere in the literature, hoping someone may see it and decide to act on it.

One member said he was struck by lightning back in the early 1990s while on active duty in the military. He said it took him about 9 nine years to get disability through the VA, primarily because the doctors seeing him did not believe the cause of his ailments was lightning.

Another member reported being struck back in 1995 and still feels tingling sensations nowadays.

One member stated some members are afraid to speak up about what happened to them after a lightning strike, because they fear being viewed as “curiosities”, rather than a real person with real injuries and issues stemming from being hit by lightning.

Another member reported being shocked by 68kV about 30 years ago. The sequelae from the shock are similar to those reported by lightning strike survivors. This individual said there are thousands who share similar problems. They need health care above and beyond the needs of ordinary folks.

Carl has expressed an interest in reaching out to members of the LSESSI to present their cases to us. While there was general agreement to the idea, Ken Langford emphasized a great need for caution in how the LDC presents itself, lest LDC provide false hopes of a quick cure to the problems faced by those who have been shocked or struck. Karen Wells suggested using something like an intake sheet for the person to provide initial information about their situation, prior to any meeting we would have with them. Ken Langford reminded us we had sheets that we used for the study LDC did back in the 1990s, which could fulfill Karen's idea. Steve Clark noted we video conferencing technology is presently available at St. Anthony's facilities.

3. Carl has approached the meteorology department at Metropolitan State University and the environmental science department at the University of Colorado at Denver about the LDC. As these minutes go to press, he has not had any response from either school.
4. Next meeting: Friday, December 13, 2013 at 11:45 AM at St. Anthony Hospital West. Conference Room TBA.

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!

"Texan Survives Being Struck by Lightning Twice" Article includes a video clip.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201_162-57609621/texan-survives-being-hit-by-lightning-twice/

Quantas Airliner Lightning Strike Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=036hpBvjoQw&list=PL3F895A262FFAE3B1>