

# LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

April 8, 2016

ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL WEST, LAKEWOOD, CO

“The Graiae have been thought to symbolize the clouds, the transferable eye and tooth representing the flash of the lightning and its rapid interchange from one cloud to another.” Source: *Arch Ophthalmol.* 1998;116(12):1624 Link:

<http://archophth.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=264684&resultClick=3>

1. Meeting began at 12:00 PM and adjourned at 1:05 PM. Members Present: Clark, Johnson, Stewart, Wachtel, Yarnell, Nibbe, Patrick, Gift and Cui-Gift. Clark moderated.
2. Steve Clark presented two historical references to lightning from the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). The first cited some drugs that were used to treat a lightning strike survivor (strychnine, whiskey, and saline solution). The second addressed the idea of the dread of lightning having a physical basis. The author contends people that are otherwise normal and well-adjusted exhibit an almost irrational fear of lightning before storms approach. The theory in place at the time stated they were sensing a change in the magnetic field through the ether.
3. Phil Yarnell read a request that had been sent to Dr. Mary Ann Cooper. A sister wrote about her brother who had been in a lightning storm several years ago. His employment had him working atop a mountain at a remote station. He had been dropped off by helicopter. Shortly thereafter, a storm approached very rapidly. Lightning flashed all around, with multiple nearby strikes. Before the first strike, there was tingling and numbness in his head. Cardiac rhythm was affected. There were electrical effects and contractions from the nearby strikes, but there were no burn marks. He was never directly struck. He also suffered a ruptured tympanic membrane. Following the storm, he gets dizzy and he cannot watch 3-D movies. Greg Stewart noted an induced charge can introduce an additional risk for those in close proximity to a lightning strike.
4. Howard reiterated his issue with our stance on lightning safety for indoor pools. He thinks there should be a numerical assessment of risks to people in the pool vs. people outside the pool. It was also generally agreed once people are evacuated from the pool, they should be advised where to go indoors to avoid additional exposure.
5. Questions, comments, notification of errors, and critiques of these minutes are welcome. Please forward those to Steve Clark at: [sclarktoto@gmail.com](mailto:sclarktoto@gmail.com). Please keep your communications professional and respectful. Communications will be forwarded to the appropriate author(s) of the minutes and addressed accordingly.

6. LDC Disclaimer: These minutes do not represent official positions of the LDC or its members. They simply reflect the comments made at the meeting. Furthermore, the LDC does not implicitly or explicitly recommend or endorse any product or service. Any product or service presented in these minutes is done so for purposes of discussion and analysis. The merit (or lack thereof) is open for the consideration and review by the entire membership.
7. Next meeting: Friday, May 13, 2016 at 11:45 AM at St. Anthony Hospital West in the Pinecone Room.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steven E. Clark, Consulting Meteorologist

## **Lightning Links**

**This is a monthly listing of periodicals, websites, and videos about lightning and allied areas from a variety of sources. 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.**

WPTV News, 2015. A Lightning Strike Injures 3 Boca Raton Firefighters. Link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gKfBjder64>

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