

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

February 10, 2017
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL WEST, LAKEWOOD, CO
www.lightningdatacenter.org

“The lightning strike left a visible trail of destruction, burrowing a 200m trench across the school yard, while burnt uniforms and shoes were strewn all over the place.” Damage from a lightning strike in Zimbabwe. Link: <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2017/01/28/lightning-kills-2-students-injures-83/>

1. Members Present: Clark, Yarnell, Gift, Stewart, Langford, Swanson (via teleconference) and a survivor. Meeting began at 11:53 AM and ended at 1:18 PM.
2. A survivor who told us of her experience in the November 2016 meeting gave us some updated information. She thinks the strike may have occurred on either June 30 or September 30, but is unsure of either date. The MEAD device is still being used. Her focus is somewhat better, as she has been able to make herself finish a task. She is getting ready to undergo brain balance therapy with her son and will be performing some Brain Gym exercises (www.braingym.org). She almost talked herself out of coming to the meeting and isolating herself, which to her, is an obvious change in her behavior since she is normally an extrovert. She still has an internal tremor, similar to shivering from cold. She has always had high energy and even before the lightning, she had problems with computers inexplicably going awry.

We discussed the strike in more detail. There is a short-wave antenna across the street at a neighbor's house. We asked her to contact the neighbor and ask if there was any damage to his radio equipment. She heard two loud boom sounds a few seconds apart. She could not tell what direction the sounds came from. At the time of the boom sounds, she felt a surge go through her body, but did not see any flash. She recalled storm clouds to her south.

Following the strike, practitioners of Eastern medicine said her energy pattern looked like those of Asian people that have been in contact with high voltage.

3. Dr. Phil Yarnell had a few comments:

There is a writer who is writing a long feature article (3500-4000 words) on lightning injury and safety for a British based publication. She is interested in talking to lightning survivors and writing an article about them. Contact information for the journalist is:

Charlotte Huff
<http://charlottehuff.com/>
charlotte@charlottehuff.com
1208 West Magnolia Ave., Ste. 228,
Fort Worth, Texas 76104

Phil also said people are searching for the LDC's website and are getting the old St. Anthony Hospital LDC webpage. Also, when people do find our new website, they say there isn't much there. Steve Clark is addressing these two issues.

Phil also told us about Arnold Starr, a Research Professor at U.C. Irvine, who wrote on the electro-physiology of lightning. Phil was unable to find the article. If the article can be located, Phil suggested we read it and discuss it. Steve Clark suggested Prof. Starr might be an interesting guest speaker.

4. More discussion was held on the idea of a "Lightning Hotline". Phil suggested it direct people to a website for further information rather than a manned hotline. Greg Stewart suggested a message line and Ken suggests a "check down" list of resources available to the caller, starting with a message stating if you are injured, to hang up and dial 911.

One proposed method for handling calls was the following: For calls to an existing call center, first, the agent would take a phone number for a call back. Next, the agent then goes to a phone tree and makes calls until a "LDC Responder" is reached personally. The "LDC Responder" would then call the person who left their number. All "LDC Responders" would work off a script of bullet points to address concerns, providing information in a compassionate manner.

We briefly discussed how we might publicize a hotline and what kind of traffic it might generate. It was suggested we reach out to Steve Marshburn to find out about traffic.

5. Finally, our meeting closed with discussion about the brain, healing, PTSD, and other items. Following are a few select comments from that discussion.

Phil noted we do not know how to make the brain heal, but if you have an infection, we can treat that. If the brain has been injured traumatically, we cannot force it to regenerate interrupted pathways.

The lightning strike survivor said when you get struck, all the coating has been stripped off the "electrical wiring" of the body. She said clean eating and clean living is required, since being struck by lightning is such a life-changing event.

Greg commented analogous to PTSD, certain deficits lend themselves to a cascade of problems following the initial issue and that there may be brain exercises to address the cognitive deficit.

Carl asked the survivor if a positive attitude helped the process of healing in her practice of alternative healing. She replied "Yes" and added when people are told to "get over" things, that makes it harder for people to recover. She encouraged the use of "get past" things, with that being a more positive approach.

6. Questions, comments, notification of errors, and critiques of these minutes are welcome. Please forward those to Steve Clark at: 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.

7. 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.
8. Next meeting: Friday, March 10, 2017, from 11:45 to 2:00 PM at 11:45 AM at St. Anthony Hospital West. Room: Conference Rooms E & F. The March meeting will be the Colorado statewide EMS/First Responder meeting. An announcement will be broadcast for that meeting soon.

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.

Electric Shock and Lightning Injury Resources, from the Brain Injury Resource Center. NOTE: As of February 2017, the link for the Lightning Strike Survivor List was not connecting, possibly due to website security software I have on my computer and the Lightning Strike Survivor's Resource Page is broken (404 Error).

<http://www.headinjury.com/linkelect.htm>

Amazing Blue Jets from Thunderstorms Seen from Space (Video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r50Un4LPTM4>

Saunyama, S. 2017: Lightning Kills 2 Students, Injures 83. *Newsday*. January 28, 2017. See link in monthly quote.