

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

September 8, 2017
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL WEST, LAKEWOOD, CO
www.lightningdatacenter.org

Monthly Quote: “From all we have learnt about the structure of living matter, we must be prepared to find it working in a manner that cannot be reduced to the ordinary laws of physics. And that not on the ground that there is any ‘new force’ or what not, directing the behavior of single atoms within a living organism, but because the construction is different from anything we have yet tested in the physical laboratory.” Erwin Schrödinger, *What is Life?*, 1944.

1. Members Present: Clark, Swanson, Elder, Yarnell, Gift, Cui-Gift and Karen. Meeting began at 11:55 AM and ended at 1:00 PM. Clark moderated.
2. We discussed a few things to consider for setting up a local lightning survivors support group. Some of the items discussed are listed below.
 - Find a place to meet.
 - Members can chat online or call one another.
 - Carl Swanson said the group should be for lightning survivors only and not include electric shock survivors. His experience as a consultant to a group similar to Lightning Strike & Electric Shock Survivors International (LSESSI) showed a distinct rift had developed between the two groups, making unified discussions difficult if not impossible.
 - Carl said he is willing to help the support group as needed.
 - Avoid discussion of religion.
 - Establish ground rules for the group, such as avoiding discussion of hot-button topics such as religion or politics, and limiting the amount of time members talk, to allow input by more members.

Carl presented an old newsletter from LSESSI to give a sense of what is discussed and mentioned. In this newsletter, a member posted an update on their condition, and another asked if anyone else has experienced a condition similar to what a family member went through after being struck.

3. Phil Yarnell recalls the LDC discussing a lightning fatality case in October 1996. In that case, three people were standing by a lake in Wyoming. One of them complained of numbness in the legs, lost consciousness a few seconds later and then died. Phil says this case parallels a recent case of a lightning strike in western Colorado. In that case, three people were hit. Initially, all three survived, but the third person talked for maybe ten seconds. The person was told to take deep breaths and three breaths were taken. Then the person died on-scene. Carl Swanson has been in contact with a survivor who knew the fatality and the EMS personnel who saw the patient. One of the EMS personnel was at the vicinity of the strike when it happened. Phil Yarnell refers to these two cases as “talk and die” cases and wonders about the underlying mechanisms of fatality in these cases. The survivor will present her story in the November meeting.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Next meeting: Friday, October 13, 2017, from 11:45 to 1:00 PM at St. Anthony Hospital West. Room: Conference Rooms E & F. A lightning survivor will tell their story.

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.

Rodriguez, O. R. and J. J. Cooper. 2017: Sierra Nevada Man Hit by Lightning Woke Up with "Blood Everywhere." The Denver Post. August 25, 2017. Link: <http://www.denverpost.com/2017/08/25/hiker-hit-by-lightning/>
