

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

January 8, 2016

ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL WEST, LAKEWOOD, CO

“I roamed the countryside searching for answers to things I did not understand. Why thunder lasts longer than that which causes it, and why immediately on its creation the lightning becomes visible to the eye while thunder requires time to travel. How.” – Leonardo da Vinci. Source: <http://thinkexist.com/quotes/with/keyword/lightning/>

1. Meeting began at 12:00 PM and adjourned at 1:00 PM. Members Present: Clark, Elder, Yarnell, Swanson and Thorpe. Clark moderated.
2. Unless otherwise announced, the remainder of the meetings in 2016 will be held in the Pinecone Room.
3. Steve Clark is in the process of trying to secure grant funding for the purchase of lightning data, which would be used with other weather data to promote lightning safety awareness.
4. We continue to make progress towards getting our website back up. Hopefully, before the end of the month, we will at least have the website as it was up and running, with additional functionality forthcoming.
5. Phil Yarnell introduced us to Jayne Cobb Thorpe, a speech language pathologist, with whom he has worked since 1991. She gave a talk on concussion and how it shows up in people. Concussion is defined as the alteration of neurologic response to brain trauma. Notably, a loss of consciousness is NOT a defining characteristic of concussion; although a concussed person can lose consciousness.

Jayne said concussion appears in one or more of the following areas: cognitive, somatic, affective, sleep deregulation. Example of disorders within these areas are:

- Cognitive: Short attention span, memory loss, difficulty in problem solving, difficulty in reasoning, difficulty in word retention.
- Somatic: Headaches, dizziness, balance, sensitivity to light and sound.
- Affective: Irritability, lack of emotional stability.
- Sleep deregulation: Insomnia or too tired.

Jayne also said the brain is most vulnerable 7 to 10 days following the injury and is also vulnerable if 3 concussions occur within an 8-year period.

She concluded the talk by noting the concussion symptoms are very similar to complaints made by lightning survivors.

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, February 12, 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.

No links this month.