

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

January 10, 2020
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL WEST, LAKEWOOD, CO
www.lightningdatacenter.org

Monthly Quote: “It was totally clear. A clear day then that first lightning strike came.” A neighbor of a man who was struck by lightning while grilling with a friend, who was also hit.”
Source: nbcphiladelphia.com.

1. Members Present: Clark, Coomer, Stemple, Yarnell, Terry, Langford, Elder and Swanson via Zoom. Clark moderated. Meeting began at 11:45 AM and ended at 1:00 PM.
2. The LDC is accepting donations, either as cash or check. If you donate via check, please make your check payable to Steve Clark at 755 S. Clinton Street, #2A; Denver, CO 80247. He will cash the check and keep the cash holdings specifically for the LDC. When the LDC incurs expenses, Steve will pay for services rendered through his bank account using the cash from LDC’s cash holdings. A log will be maintained detailing the inflow and outflow of monies. At the present, the LDC has \$439.00 in cash holdings.
3. The 35th International Conference on Lightning Protection will be held at the Shangri La Hotel in Columbo, Sri Lanka from August 30 to September 4, 2020. The deadline for submission of papers is February 29th, 2020.
4. The 2020 IEEE International Conference on High Voltage Engineering and Application (ICHVE 2020) will be held in Beijing, China on September 6-10, 2020. Abstracts between 300-400 words are being accepted through January 31, 2020. For more information, visit their website at: www.ichve2020.org.
5. Greg Stewart has stepped down from the LDC Executive Committee and Barb Stemple will be taking his place. Thank you, Greg, for your service on the board. Barb, welcome aboard.
6. Carl Swanson presented some lightning casualty data in Colorado as tabulated below. Statistics came from the LDC, the National Weather Service office in Pueblo, Colorado and from struckbylightning.org.

Year	LDC	NWS Pueblo	Struckbylightning.org
2015	39	18	14
2016	8	8	4
2017	5	4	4
2018	6	4	5
2019	15	Not reported yet	3

In all cases but one, the LDC reported the most events except in 2016, when the LDC and NWS Pueblo each reported 8 casualties. Carl will be working with Steve Hodanish at NWS Pueblo in an effort to better align the statistics between LDC and NWS Pueblo.

7. Carl has started his First Responder Data Collection Project in Tennessee. So far, he has commitments from 16 departments and possibly five additional departments. He also noted there were 3 lightning fatalities in Tennessee in 2018, which is the most in a year since 2006 according to NWS statistics.
8. We discussed the lightning safety brochure. Barb Stemple prepared the original draft from which Ken Langford and Steve Clark each wrote their own version. All three versions are attached to these minutes. Please review them. We welcome any suggestions for additions, corrections or deletions to Ken's and Steve's versions of the brochure. Please send your feedback via e-mail to both Steve Clark and Ken Langford by no later than January 31, at these e-mail addresses: sclarktoto@gmail.com and mrrandom@comcast.net. The final brochure will most likely be some combination of Ken's and Steve's brochures. In February, we will submit the brochure to a graphic artist and then have copies printed. Barb has a quote from the printing company that is good through February 20.

One of the main points of emphasis while discussing the brochure is that most people hit by lightning are relatively close to adequate shelter and in some cases, only a few footsteps away from safety. To that end, Ken showed a video of a lightning strike in Vermont dated July 7, 2017, where people in a tent had easy access to safety. Here's the link to the video.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqRQgKldJ4>

In particular, the video shows the people in the tent were only a few steps away from cars shown at the 18-second mark and a substantial building at the 34 to 36-second mark. From the video, the woman's face was bloodied and she had lost her hearing.

9. We also discussed having the Lightning Strike & Electric Shock Survivors International conference here in Denver in 2021. Steve Clark will contact Jim Segnari on getting that going. Dr. Phil Yarnell said the meetings start with a Thursday evening Meet & Greet session, followed by the conference on Friday and Saturday. A dinner is typically done on Friday.
10. Barb Stemple presented a letter of reference written by a person struck while working on a chairlift at a ski resort. I will call this person "Mrs. X". Her work involves hanging in a work basket as it is moved from one tower to the next. Mrs. X had called for a cessation of work, but the call was not made soon enough. The work basket was being moved towards the base of the chairlift when lightning either hit the chairlift directly or struck nearby. Mrs. X recalls the hair standing on the back of the neck and the smell in the atmosphere. Upon arrival at the bottom of the lift, Mrs. X was conscious and somewhat responsive. After a visit to the ER, Mrs. X regained some composure and her bearings, which was several hours after the strike. Mrs. X looks forward to sharing this story in a future LDC meeting. Barb also knows a second person that was hit by lightning. Both are anticipated to share their stories with the LDC later this year.

11. LDC welcomes your medical questions. Please send them via e-mail to Steve Clark at sclarktoto@gmail.com. Your medical questions will be forwarded to Dr. Phil Yarnell for his review and will usually be taken up for discussion in the next month's meeting. Please be advised any questions posed are for the general consideration by the group and do not constitute a formal medical opinion. If a formal evaluation is requested, arrangements can be made directly with Dr. Yarnell. If you have a medical emergency, please call 911 or your local EMS.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Next meeting: Friday, February 14, 2020, from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM at St. Anthony Hospital, Conference Rooms E & F. Format: TBA.

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.

Lind, J.R., 2018: Lightning Deaths in Tennessee Hit 12-Year High. *Patch*. July 17, 2018. Link: <https://patch.com/tennessee/across-tn/lightning-deaths-tennessee-hit-12-year-high>

de Guzman, D., 2017: Family Survives Being Struck by Lightning at Sequoia National Park. *SFGATE*. September 20, 2017. Link: <https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/lightning-strike-family-Sequoia-National-Park-12216109.php>

Chang, D. and T. Furlong, 2019: Lightning Strikes Tree, Injures 2 Men Grilling Outside in Delaware, Neighbor Says. *Nbcphiladelphia.com*. August 1, 2019. Link: <https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/lightning-strike-newark-delaware-tree-grilling-men-injured/167109/>

Sherman, D., 2019: Lightning Injures Polk County Teen on ATV. *WDEF-TV*. August 8, 2019. Link: <https://wdef.com/2019/08/08/lightning-injures-polk-county-teen-on-atv/>
