

# LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

November 12, 2021  
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL  
[www.lightningdatacenter.org](http://www.lightningdatacenter.org)

Monthly Quote: “They say marriages are made in heaven. But so is thunder and lightning.” - Clint Eastwood

Members present: Members present: Langford, Swanson, Clark and Yarnell. Meeting began at 12:00 PM AM and ended at 1:10 PM.

1. **VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ!** As of November 2021, we will continue to hold meetings via Zoom only. The number of COVID cases and hospitalizations continues to rise here in Colorado. Hospitals here in Colorado are being stretched pretty thin in terms of staffing and physical room for COVID patients. Cosmetic surgeries are being postponed. The Delta variant of COVID is the dominant strain of the virus. Masks in Colorado are recommended but not required. Local governments and business can require mask use as they wish; however, indoor mask use is required for those who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated in certain places.
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 \$882.00 in cash, thanks to a \$200 donation from Carl Swanson.
3. The LDC will not be hosting the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Lightning Strike & Electric Shock Survivors International (LS&ESSI) due to COVID concerns and logistical issues.
4. We discussed the case of an individual that had come into contact with an electric fence multiple times and was shocked. In the first two weeks after the shock, the person complained of disorientation, terrible headache, burning sensation on the forearm, ringing in the ears, spine pain and anxiety. Other ailments include pains on the side and tingling in the back of their head along with numbness and tingling in the hands, feet and upper lip. More recently, the tingling on the lips appears to have stopped. This individual continues to have the following sequelae: extreme fatigue, dizziness, trouble with concentration, difficulty with paying attention, strange pressure and tingling/burning sensations in the head, worsening vision, burning eyes with lots of floaters, sleep disturbance, anxiety, difficulty in handling stress, and fear of driving.

A month after the shock, pain medication was prescribed. The person expressed frustration that none of the doctors seemed to know what to do. Dr. Phil Yarnell said he might suggest treatments where they are known and also suggested workarounds. He also said treatments will have to be done symptomatically since we do not have a full understanding of the pathophysiology of electric shock injury. Finally, Phil said the complaints are typical among electric shock survivors, as documented by surveys taken over many years by LS&ESSI.

5. We received an update on the man who was shocked after urinating on his cellphone. He is still suffering from burning sensations on the tip of his penis and his anus. His urine stream is diminished. Ken Langford said his cellphone uses the same USB-C port for both charging and earphones. He thinks it may be possible the urine got into the USB port and caused a short which may have allowed the shock to occur. Ken asked what the maximum current is from a cellphone when the battery is short-circuited. Phil asked if it is possible for lightning to transfer energy to devices via Bluetooth electromagnetically, for example, Bluetooth earbuds.
6. Dr. Yarnell told us LS&ESSI held an online meeting for survivors which was very successful. They are considering holding these meetings on a regular basis. He also said LS&ESSI sends out a one-time questionnaire to its members asking what health problems they have. Ken Langford suggested issuing follow-up questionnaires over time to see what issues improve or worsen with time. He thought that would be a valuable record to have.
7. Carl Swanson reported the First Responders Project in Colorado did not receive any reports of fatalities or injuries from lightning during 2021.
8. LDC welcomes your medical questions. Please send them via e-mail to Steve Clark at [sclarktoto@gmail.com](mailto: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.
9. Questions, comments, error notifications, and critiques of these minutes are welcome. Please forward those to Steve Clark. Please keep your communications professional and respectful. Communications will be forwarded to the appropriate author(s) of the minutes and addressed accordingly.
10. 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.
11. Next meeting: Zoom meeting. Friday, December 10, 2021, from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM MDT.

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.**

McClure, B., 2021: Injured Worker “Lucky to Be Alive” After Self-Powered Lift Comes in Contact With Electrical Lines. KCNC-TV. November 12, 2021. Link: <https://denver.cbslocal.com/2021/11/12/self-powered-lift-contact-power-lines-denver-third-degree-burns/>

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