

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

December 10, 2021
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL
www.lightningdatacenter.org

FELIZ NAVIDAD, FROHE WEINACHTEN, BUON NATALE, JOYEAX NOEL, VROLIJK KERSTFEEST. Wherever and however you celebrate it, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Members present: Members present: Clark, Wachtel, Yarnell, Crow, Swanson, Stemple and Terry. Meeting began at 11:50 AM and ended at 12:35 PM.

1. **VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ!** As of December 2021, we will continue to hold meetings via Zoom only. Here in Colorado, the number of COVID cases has fallen, but hospitalizations remain high. Hospitals here are stretched pretty thin in terms of staffing and physical room for COVID patients. Cosmetic surgeries are being postponed. The Delta variant of COVID is still the dominant strain of the virus, but in addition there is the Omicron variant. Preliminary data suggests this variant is more contagious than other variants but is not as severe; however, more data is needed to demonstrate that. Some counties in Colorado have reinstated indoor mask mandates, including most in the Denver area. Local governments and businesses 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. Howard Wachtel said LDC should change its name. He says we are not a center and that we do not collect enough data to warrant the use of the word "Data" in our name. He also said the word "Lightning" defines our group too narrowly, when we spend an increasing amount of time discussing things other than lightning. Howard suggested the name "Current And Voltage Events (CAVE) Group". Some members present were opposed to losing the LDC name, since we have a long history and some brand recognition with that name. Shirley Terry advised since LDC is a legal part of the hospital, any name changes may have to be approved by the hospital. Steve Clark will take that up with hospital administration. Steve also said he is okay with a name that would be inclusive of electric shock survivors. Some of the suggested names were:

Lightning Data & Electric Shock Center
Lightning Data & Electric Shock Group
Lightning Data Center & Electric Shock Group

4. The LDC website is being updated to reflect the inclusion of electric shock survivors. The Mission Statement has been updated for their inclusion and Steve Clark is trying to figure out how to update other webpages accordingly.
5. Dr. Phil Yarnell had a discussion with some colleagues and a question arose: “If electric shocks and lightning strikes are singular events, why are there progressive complaints and dysfunction?” The logic of Phil’s question says multiple events should lead to progressive complaints and dysfunction and singular events should not lead to progressive complaints and dysfunction. We had some spirited discussion as to what constitutes a single event versus multiple events. For example, is a lightning flash with multiple surges a single event because the same channel was used for all of the surges, or, is the lightning flash considered to be multiple events because there were multiple surges? Phil said most lightning survivors end up being okay, with a few having difficulties post-strike. Barb Stemple said her symptoms appear to be getting worse.
6. Barb said December 4 was St. Barbara Day. St. Barbara is the Patron Saint of Lightning and those who work with explosives. According to legend, St. Barbara’s father had locked her in a tower to be protected from the outside world, but she became a Christian anyhow. She was to die by beheading. Her father beheaded her and on his way home, he was struck by lightning and his body was consumed by fire, as punishment for his deed.
7. According to John Jensenius, in the 10-year period 1991-2001, the average number of lightning fatalities in the US was 54 per year. In the most recent 10-year period ending last year, the average was 27 per year. For further information, see the Navarro link below.
8. 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.
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, January 14, 2022, 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/>

Khadka, N., 2014: Are Lightning Deaths Increasing? *BBC World Service*. March 14, 2014.

Link: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-26554974>

Navarro, A., 2021: What Can We Learn From 13 Years of Lightning Fatalities? *AccuWeather.com*.

Link: <https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/what-we-can-learn-from-13-years-of-lightning-fatalities-2/434861>
