

# LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

November 9, 2018

ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL WEST, LAKEWOOD, CO

[www.lightningdatacenter.org](http://www.lightningdatacenter.org)

Quote of the Month: “Many a man that would laugh at the idea of the devil throwing thunderbolts at his home, wrecks the happiness of that home by his gambling.” Source: *The Washington times*. (Washington [D.C.]), 13 Aug. 1922. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026749/1922-08-13/ed-1/seq-43/#date1=1789&index=7&rows=20&words=lightning+Lightning&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=&date2=1963&proxtext=lightning&y=0&x=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

1. Members Present: Clark, Yarnell, Stemple, Wells, Gift and Cui-Gift. Meeting began at 11:50 AM and ended at 12:55 PM. Clark moderated.
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 \$90.00, enough to pay for website hosting for the first half of 2019.
3. Steve Clark presented some lightning safety tips prepared for the “Save A Life” project for the group to review. Some minor revisions were suggested and they will be incorporated.
4. Steve Clark presented a news article discussing a \$16,000,000 verdict awarded to a man who sustained electrical injuries. In an effort to get power to his tools on a construction site, he was flipping the breakers on a temporary breaker box when it exploded. After flipping the second breaker, there was a loud explosion. His hair and skin were burned. The current melted a bracelet into his skin. His hands were covered by a black substance. He did not feel any pain for over an hour after the explosion, after which, his hands started to burn and he could not move his right wrist. The pain in his right arm persisted for several months. After seeing a specialist, he was diagnosed with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome. He still feels pain. Once an athletic man and a coach, now he can no longer work or play with his kids.
5. Carl Swanson was unable to attend the meeting, but he did ask me to relay the latest from his First Responder Data Collection Project. So far, in Colorado, there have been a total of 6 people struck by lightning in 2018. Of those 6, there were two who refused treatment on the scene. No additional information was available for that pair. Four more were injured – 2 males and 2 females.

Carl also had a thought on an incident we touched on in a previous meeting. In a news report, the male survivor said while he had his hand on the truck, he felt the electricity and then saw the flash of light. Carl thinks the man may have become part of the early streamer due to his feeling the electricity before seeing the flash.

6. Barb Stemple presented a photocopy of a lightning strike incident in Dubois, Wyoming. The photocopy came from a book about the history of Dubois and its residents. A local resident was walking from a barn when he was hit. The lightning hit on the left cheekbone and exited out of the right. He was covered with blood. He was taken home and lapsed in and out of consciousness. A doctor, who had never seen a lightning patient, was called. The photocopy does not provide any details on the treatment rendered by the doctor, except for removing the patient's boots to see if any holes were present in his feet. There were none. Shortly thereafter, he walked to his bedroom in pain. He had some loose fillings and a chipped tooth. Weeks later, he said the pain felt like an ice pick being driven through his brain. Months later, most of the effects of the strike had subsided, but he still had numbness in his face and legs. He could use his hands, but it was painful to play the piano or work with a horse. He also had double vision for two weeks, which then corrected. When he would jump off a horse, one leg would give way and he would go down. Eventually, he regained full strength in his muscles.
7. We viewed a video containing lightning strikes recorded in real time and at 1000 frames per second.
8. Questions, comments, notification of errors, and critiques of these minutes are welcome. Please forward those to Steve Clark at: [sclarktoto@gmail.com](mailto: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.
9. 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.
10. Next meeting: Friday, December 14, 2018, from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM at St. Anthony Hospital West. Room: Conference Rooms E & F. Meeting 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.**

Ferrell, D, 2017: Transient, 4K, UHD, 1000FPS. *Youtube.com*. December 4, 2017.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBYZpsbu9ds&t=1s>

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Schmelzer, E., 2018: 'Things Aren't Simple Anymore': Broomfield Man Who Won \$16 Million in Lawsuit After Explosion Can't Escape Chronic Pain. *Denver Post*. November 6, 2018.

Link: <https://www.denverpost.com/2018/11/06/workers-comp-electrocution-lawsuit-denver-broomfield/>

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Silver, C., 2018: 'We Are Walking Miracles': Couple Hit by Lightning During Severe Storm.

*KKTV.com*. July 30, 2018. Link: <https://www.kktv.com/content/news/We-are-walking-miracles-Couple-hit-by-lightning-during-severe-storm-489514061.html>

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Allison, M. (Ed.), 1991: *Dubois Area History*, Curtis Media Corp., p. 186.