

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

Denver, CO

October 10, 2025

In Memoriam

Carl Swanson, III



On Thursday, October 9, 2025, LDC member Carl Swanson, III left this earthly existence and crossed over to the other side. His health had been in a state of decline for some time, but now he is in a better place, free of the pains and ailments he had lived with for so long.

Carl loved the Lightning Data Center and was an avid supporter and participant in its activities. With the help of Ken Langford, the late Professor Derek Elsom and others, he initiated his First Responder Project, which was an effort to collect data on lightning strike survivors and fatalities from first responders in Colorado and Tennessee. Partly because of his outreach to the first responder community, LDC was invited to share some table space at the 2016 EMSAC (Emergency Management Services Association of Colorado) meeting held in Keystone, Colorado in 2016. The photo above is from that meeting.

From time to time, Carl conducted field interviews of lightning survivors here in Colorado and presented his findings in subsequent LDC meetings. He also helped recruit parks and recreation employees for a meeting which discussed pool safety with respect to lightning.

Carl's enthusiasm for the LDC and his way of connecting with people will be sorely missed. A celebration of life will be held in Denver with details forthcoming.

Monthly Quote: "Human life is as evanescent as the morning dew or a flash of lightning.

- Samuel Butler. Source: <https://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/lightning.html>

Members present: Clark and Crow. Meeting began at 11:45 AM and ended at 12:15 PM.

1. 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 is maintained detailing the inflow and outflow of monies. The LDC currently has \$1047.00 in cash.
2. Two hunters were killed by lightning southwest of Monte Vista in Conejos County, Colorado on September 12, 2025, as confirmed by the county coroner. The two men were experienced hunters. They were found under a tree with "slight burns" on their bodies on September 18. LDC member Bruce Beckmann, a member of Alpine Rescue and Colorado Search and Rescue, was involved in this mission. Hopefully, he will be able to provide us with more details about this incident at a future meeting.
3. In New Port Richie, Florida, a city worker was killed and a second was injured by an apparent electrical shock at a lift plant. Fire rescue workers said the man who died was electrocuted, then fell 15 feet after which CPR was administered. The official cause of death is under investigation.
4. LDC welcomes your 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 any answers given 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.
5. Questions, comments, error notifications, and critiques of these minutes are welcome. Please send them to Steve Clark. Please keep the communications professional and respectful. They will be forwarded to the appropriate author(s) of the minutes and addressed accordingly.

6. 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.
7. Next meeting: Friday, November 14, 2025, from 11:45 AM to 12:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steven E. Clark
President, Lightning Data Center, Denver, CO

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.

Ross, T. and O. Prentzel, 2025: Elk Hunters Found Dead in Southern Colorado Were Killed by Lightning, Coroner Says. *The Colorado Sun*. September 22, 2025.

Link: <https://coloradosun.com/2025/09/22/hunters-found-dead-victims-of-lightning-strike/>

VIDEO: Florida Public Works Employee Killed, Second Injured in Lift Station Incident. *Fox 13 Tampa Bay*. September 23, 2025.

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWRJm0evV_w

Fanning, S. and R. Arbogast, 2025: 'I Love You': Daughter of Mechanic Killed in New Port Richey 'Incident' Heartbroken Over Tragedy. *WFLA-TV*. September 23-24, 2025.

Link: <https://www.wfla.com/news/pasco-county/new-port-richey-identifies-public-works-employee-killed-in-lift-station-incident/>
