Spring 2010

FLASH NOTES

SAVING LIVES & PROTECTING PROPERTY SINCE 1955

Industry Meets in Nashville for the 78th Annual Conference

The 78th Annual LPI/ULPA Conference was a huge success with over 100 industry members and guests traveling to Nashville, TN, for educational sessions, association meetings, collaboration and fellowship. Jeff and Justin Harger of HLP Systems served as gracious hosts in organizing hotel, hospitality and special events to make our visit to Nashville memorable.

In addition to enjoying all the many amenities of the Gaylord Opryland Hotel, LPI and ULPA members were treated to two-day educational program which included industry-moderated breakout sessions, general assembly meetings, lightning protection program updates and several dynamic speaker presentations. Below are highlights from the educational speaker sessions:

Scenes from the 2010 LPI/ULPA Conference in Nashville, TN.

"UL Program Update on Standards Work STP – 96 & 96A", *by Richard Bouchard*

Rich provided a review of changes planned for UL's lightning protection program, the STP process and proposed standard revisions under consideration with the STP committee pending a May 3, 2010 vote. He also discussed new surge protection inspection requirements for Master Label Certification (MLC) and UL's recent allowance for pre-existing contract exceptions. Industry members who are experiencing problems with MLC and/or Letter of Findings applications are urged to follow-up in writing with UL's customer service department.

"Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) and Field Inspection Report" *by Mitchell Guthrie*

Mitch's presentation re-capped the latest information on the CSST gas tubing issue as it relates to lightning protection, bonding and grounding. He also shared the findings of his recent field inspection report in conjunction with the LSA-sponsored research project. Mitch also summarized the progress of the newly-formed NFPA joint task group organized by the Fire Protection Research Foundation. Mitch also reviewed installation measures for installers to be aware of when providing lightning protection systems for homes or businesses where CSST is present.

Ground Resistance & Measurement By Terry Klimchack, Senior Applications Engineer, ERITECH, ERICO, Inc.

Terry reviewed applicable NFPA and IEEE standards, soil resistivity, measuring soil resistivity, measuring ground system resistance and how to lower ground system resistance. Terry also provided an overview of available ground testing equipment, currently on the market.

"FLASH & LPI… One Year Partnership Update" *by Leslie Chapman-Henderson, CEO, Federal Alliance for Safe Homes*

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Lightning Protection News & Notes

the standard in safety

UL Q&A Corner

Effective March 11, 2010, UL provided two new documents which outline verification procedures and updated information regarding MLC surge inspection exceptions for pre-existing contracts. The previously posted, How to Find Listed Surge Devices" document has been replaced by a new seven page "Guide to Determine Surge Protection Devices" which provides verification information for locating UL 96A compliant SPDs for electrical, telephone and radio/cable applications. The second document outlines exceptions which will be considered for MLC on a case-by-case basis for pre-existing construction and job contracts written prior to January 1, 2010.

The proposed revisions to UL 96/96A are under review with the STP 0096 committee, in conjunction with the next Standard revision cycle. The return date for vote on these revisions is set for May 3, 2010. Industry members are urged to contact the members of the STP 0096 committee (list was provided by UL at 2010 LPI/ULPA Conference), if they have comments and concerns about proposed revisions.

Information about UL's lightning protection program can be found at ***https://lps.ul.com.*** Questions about the lightning protection program can be forwarded to ***lightningprotection@us.ul.com.***

2010 Trade Show Season

LPI is making plans to take our lightning protection message and the newly renovated booth on the road for exhibit at these and other upcoming trade shows, scheduled for 2010:

Construction Specification Institute (CSI) Tradeshow
May 12-14, Philadelphia

American Institute of Architects (AIA) Tradeshow
June 10-12, Miami

International Facility Management Assoc. (IFMA) Tradeshow
October 27-28, Atlanta

Industry Reflects on Passing of Renowned Lightning Researcher Charles B. Moore, 1920-2010

Doctoral ceremony for C. B. Moore. Left to right: Paul Krehbiel, Moore, Stirling Colgate, Bill Winn

Charles B. Moore, renowned researcher on atmospheric physics and dedicated pioneer of lightning and lightning protection exploration, passed away on March 2, 2010 in Socorro, New Mexico. Moore was professor emeritus of physics at New Mexico Tech and former chairman of Tech's Langmuir Laboratory for Atmospheric Research. He was internationally known for his research on the electrical aspects of thunderstorms and volcanoes. Moore was considered an expert in atmospheric research, weather modification and practical issues of lightning protection. He nominally retired from New Mexico Tech in 1985, but since then worked with the NFPA 780 Committee and conducted research which revealed blunt-tipped lightning rods to be better strike receptors than sharp pointed rods. Moore is also known for his research using X-rays to investigate how lightning bolt leaders propagate. The LPI Board has formed a committee to recommend commemoration of Moore in acknowledgment of his contributions to the lightning protection industry.

Media Report:

Recent PR Highlights

LPI marketing and communication efforts continue to increase exposure for the industry and its members.

LPI Partnerships Help Promote Lightning Protection

LPI is partnering with several non-profit groups to increase awareness about the dangers of lightning and provide consumer information about lightning protection:

Left to right: I.I.I.'s Jeanne Salvatore; FLASH Ceo, Leslie Chapman-Henderson; NOAA's Donna Franklin and LPI's Kim Loehr, share partnership plans for LSA Week at the 2010 LPI/ULPA Conference.

IBHS Partnership:

The Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) is increasingly featuring lightning protection information in IBHS "Disaster Safety Blogs" and LPI references in its "Disaster Safety Monthly" newsletters, e-blasts and on the **www.disastersafety.org** and **www.ibhs.org** websites. The IBHS is dedicated to reducing the social and economic effects of natural disasters and property losses by conducting research and advocating improved construction, maintenance and preparation practices. LPI joined the IBHS as an associate member in 2008.

FLASH Partnership:

LPI and FLASH signed a partnership agreement on 6/22/10 and have since worked together throughout the year to promote lightning protection mitigation. LPI and lightning protection are featured on the **www.flash.org** website and plans are underway to include lightning protection resource information in the "Blueprint for Safety Program." Flash also made recommendations to Congress that lightning protection mitigation be included within the Homestar Tax Incentive Program. The Homestar program was designed to fund energy-efficient and weather-proofing retrofits for U.S. homes. The plan has bipartisan support, but is pending Congressional approval. LPI and FLASH are also planning networking activities in conjunction with LSA Week 2010.

NOAA Partnership:

LPI continues to strengthen its partnership with NOAA and the National Weather Service through its participation on the Lightning Safety Awareness Team. In conjunction with LSA Week 2010, LPI will work with NOAA to sponsor distribution of a newly produced public service awareness campaign, narrated by Ellen Bryan. The PSA features a powerful account of Ellen's sister, Christina Bryan and the 2000 lightning injury, which left her disabled. A Miss America hopeful, Ellen Bryan has made lightning safety her personal pageant platform. The PSA can be viewed on the NOAA website at **www.lightningsafety@noaa.gov.**

Feature Articles Highlight Lightning Protection

LPI is seeing continued success with editors printing our feature stories, news articles and press releases on lightning protection. Copies and links to many of these industry articles can be accessed on the LPI web site, "media page." These articles are helping to put our message and LPI in the spotlight.

Lightning Safety Awareness Week 2010

LPI has planned a multitude of PR and marketing events in conjunction with this year's Lightning Safety Awareness Week, June 20-26, 2009. LPI is working with its partnerships to promote messages about lightning safety and lightning protection in conjunction with the "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors" campaign. For more information about this year's campaign, visit **www.lightningsafety@noaa.gov.**

Lightning Protection Institute

Saving Lives & Protecting Property Since 1955

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LPI/ULPA Conference

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FLASH is an award-winning national, non-profit corporation founded in 1998 by a collaborative of organizations dedicated to strengthening homes and safeguarding families from disaster. Leslie provided an overview of LPI's recent partnership with FLASH, which included a summary of networking synergies and activities which have helped further lightning protection mitigation goals. She also shared information regarding ways that FLASH has championed the cause of disaster-resilient construction through groundbreaking consumer awareness programs and areas where the lightning protection message has been included in such endeavors.

"I.I.I. & LPI Subscriber Agreement Partnership Update" ***by Jeanne Salvatore, Insurance Information Institute (III)***

As the senior vice president of Public Affairs at the I.I.I., Jeanne plays a public role in representing the insurance industry. She works closely with the media as a spokesperson for insurance-related issues. Jeanne shared updated I.I.I. data on lightning losses and insurance implications. She also discussed goals and objectives of the new communications plan, which has been implemented in conjunction with LPI's 2010 subscriber agreement and partnership with the I.I.I.

"When Thunder Roars…Go Indoors" ***by Donna Franklin, NOAA's Lightning Safety Program Lead and Ellen Bryan, Lightning Safety Spokesperson***

Donna Franklin has worked at the National Weather Service since 1992 and has led national lightning safety efforts since 2001. In addition to managing the lightning safety program, she coordinates the StormReady program and is presently on a detail to the Office of Public Affairs. Ellen Bryan, a junior at Ball State University, has been an advocate for lightning safety since 2000, when her sister was struck by lightning. She joined the NOAA LSA team in 2009 to help promote Lightning Safety Awareness Week. Donna and Ellen's joint presentation was outstanding; and for many attendees, the absolute highlight of a powerful and enlightening conference.

Thank you!

LPI extends a sincere thank you to our generous sponsors who contributed cash and/or prizes to support the 2010 LPI/ULPA conference: ECLE, Guardian Equipment, Hicks Lightning Protection, Bonded Lightning Protection Systems (Jupiter, FL), HLP Systems, Inc., Bonded Lightning Protection (Argyle, TX), Maxwell Lightning Protection of Florida, Robbins Lightning Protection, ERICO, Inc., Thompson Lightning Protection, Inc., Preferred Lightning Protection, Harger, Inc., Independent Lightning Protection. A very special thank you to Jeff & Justin Harger with HLP Systems for hosting the conference and coordinating social functions.