

FLASH NOTES



SAVING LIVES & PROTECTING PROPERTY SINCE 1955

Singer Island Sets the Stage for the 2007 LPI/ULPA Conference

The 2007 LPI/ULPA Conference enlightened over 100 participants who traveled to sunny Florida for the 75th annual conference.

Event-planner extraordinaire, Kim Dillon and our hosts at Bonded Lightning Protection of Florida organized a cornucopia of activities which included golfing excursions, an evening cruise on the Palm Beach Princess Casino Boat, and a Polynesian buffet with hula dancers and live Caribbean entertainment. While enjoying all the festivities the Florida sun had to offer, we still managed to learn more about lightning protection. Highlights from the conference included reports by the following:

“Risk Assessment Program Update” - Presented by Mitchell Guthrie, Senior Electrical Engineer/Independent Consulting Engineer & Bud VanSickle, LPI Executive Director

The presentation summarized the current Risk Assessment information and provided a review of items under consideration for the next cycle of the lightning protection Standard. Items under review include: structures with risk of explosion, protection of humans (step and touch voltage issues), loss factor values, life hazard risk components, Kc evaluations relevant to bonding, and simplified risk management software and current limitations.



Scenes from the 2007 LPI/ULPA Conference in Singer Island, Florida.

“Disaster Protection: Why Isn’t it a Public Value?” – Presented by Wendy Rose of the Institute of Business and Home Safety (IBHS)

The IBHS helps develop property protection messages for consumers and works with the media on stories related to the disaster-safety mission. Wendy’s presentation focused on the IBHS’s commitment to making communities safer from all hazards and everyday losses, by educating consumers, builders, manufacturers and government officials. Every natural disaster, severe storm or lightning strike is considered an opportunity to promote property protection. The goal of the IBHS is to try to shape how our society prepares for, responds to and mitigates the impacts of natural hazards. For more infor-

mation on the IBHS and its member companies, visit www.ibhs.org

“Lightning Kills—Play it Safe” Presented by John Jensenius, Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM)/National Weather Service (NWS)

John serves as a NOAA spokesperson on lightning safety. He was awarded the National Weather Association’s 2005 Public Education Award, and the Department of Commerce Silver Medal in 2006. John’s lightning statistics over a 30-year period (ending in 2004), reveal that lightning remains the second greatest storm-related killer in the U.S., (second only to flooding.) Since 2001, NOAA’s “Lightning Safety Awareness Team” has worked to provide lightning safety informa-

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Review of items covered at the LPI General Assembly Meeting in Palm Beach, FL

1. Lance Fleming elected as a new Board member representing Dealer Contractor members.
2. Kim Loehr reported marketing activities for 2006 and early 2007, along with plans for additional items in 2007.
3. The LPI portion of the industry lawsuit which began in 1996 has been settled to our satisfaction.
4. In December 2006, the LPI office distributed over 1500 CDs of information on lightning protection to professional architects and engineers provided by member mailing lists.
5. Improvements made to the LPI Website in 2006, and items scheduled for addition in 2007. Our web host added tracking information in July 2006 on visits, views, & hits to our site and these numbers were covered.
6. LPI will display in the following national conferences and tradeshows in 2007
 - a. May 3-5 – American Institute of Architects – San Antonio, TX
 - b. June 3-7 – National Fire Protection Assoc. – Boston, MA
 - c. June 20-22 – Construction Specification Institute – Baltimore, MD
 - d. October 24-26 – International Facility Mgmt. Assoc. – New Orleans, LA
7. The dues increase for Affiliate and Dealer Contractor members at mid-year renewal during 2006, and our retention rate of 95%.
8. Elements of the LPI Strategic plan developed in 2005 and items completed in 2005 & 2006 along with items scheduled for upcoming years.
9. Survey results from the 2006 Conference including 36 benefits of LPI membership identified by attendees. The 42 suggestion for future improvements were reviewed by the Board of Directors during their meeting earlier in the week.
10. The LPI Board recommended wording for a Code of Ethics for LPI. The membership approved adoption of the code by vote at the meeting. *(See box at left)*
11. The Board voted to donate funding to Struckbylightning for their project to seek insurance statistical information on losses from lightning.
12. Bonded Lightning Protection of Texas has worked on a translation of LPI 175 into Spanish. A final review of phrasing will occur shortly, and the document will be available through LPI for purchase later this year.
13. John Tobias & Mitchell Guthrie have been contracted to develop a 2-3 day engineering seminar on lightning protection. This process and accreditation of the course will occur in 2007 with LPI offering the training seminars beginning in early 2008.

Code of Ethics For the Lightning Protection Institute

Fundamental Principle

1. I will make primary the protection and safety of people and property.
2. I will be honest and impartial, and will serve with devotion, my clients and the general public.
3. I will strive to increase the competence and prestige of the Institute.
4. I will conduct myself honorably, responsibly, and ethically so as to enhance the honor and the reputation of the Institute and its members.

Relations with Clients

1. I will act in professional matters as a faithful agent of the client.
2. I will inform each client of any business connections, interests, or affiliations which might influence my judgment or impair the equitable character of my services.
3. I will not disclose information concerning the business affairs or technical processes of any present or former client.
4. I will respect and protect the client's property.

Relations with Peers

1. I will endeavor to aid the professional development and advancement of the lightning protection industry.
2. I will not compete unfairly with others; will extend my friendship and confidence to all Institute members and to those with whom I have a business relationship, without bias toward race, religion, or gender.
3. I will endeavor to insure the integrity of the Institute's certification programs.

Media Report:

Recent PR Highlights

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



Feature Articles on Lightning Protection

NFPA Journal Jan/Feb 2007 – Section Forum Story

As a NFPA “Building Fire Safety Systems” member, Kim Loehr can submit web articles and feature stories through the NFPA Forum Section. “Lightning Protection and Bonding of Metallic Gas Lines” was published in the November/December 2007 issue of the *NFPA Journal* and on the NFPA Journal Website.



Insurance Industry Keeps up the Coverage on Lightning Protection

Our efforts to gain increased support for lightning protection with the insurance industry are continuing to see success. LPI continues to see a notable increase in newspaper and website articles about property damage due to lightning. More importantly, we’re seeing the insurance industry going on record to recommend lightning protection in their news stories and offer information about lightning protection systems on their websites and in their consumer prevention information. These insurance companies are continuing to make recommendations for lightning protection to be installed in accordance with National Safety Standards and in some instances they are citing the LPI and the LPI website in their reference and consumer contact information.

Off Season Publicity Update

Our recent PR efforts in conjunction with our favorite editorial news service seems to have paid off with extended shelf life for our Summer “Easy Living Features” story, “Protect Your Home From Natural Disasters.” Clips from our editorial service continue to come in throughout the fall and the WINTER, with clips of our story running in newspapers (Indiana, Michigan and Ohio) in December, January and February! As of March 2007, our clipping report now shows 160 placements from 15 states throughout the US. Our total readership is estimated at 8,829,156. What a great thing for newspapers to be running our story in the winter, so Americans can read about lightning protection in our off-season months!



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tion to the media and the public, especially during “Lightning Safety Awareness Week.” John also shared some of the specific resources that NOAA, the NWS and the NOAA Lightning Safety Awareness Team have made available to the public and media.

“IEEE Update” – Presented by William Bush, Director of Research, Power & Grounding at Panduit Labs, in New Lenox, IL

With 35+ years of engineering professional experience, “Bill” is an industry-recognized expert in the development of building standards, practices on grounding and bonding, power quality, surge protection and electromagnetic compatibility. He is also a principal contributor to the IEEE Standard 1100 (Emerald Book). His presentation provided an overview of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), a leading authority on areas ranging from aerospace systems, computers and telecommunications to biomedical engineering, electric power and consumer electronics. The IEEE is a non-profit organization and is considered the world’s leading professional association for the advancement of technology. Highlights from the presentation included: IEEE and surge protection, grounding and bonding, grounding myths, bonding classifications, and ground resistance vs. ground impedance. For more information on the IEEE visit their website at www.ieee.org.

“IEC TC 81 Update” – Presented by Mitchell Guthrie, Senior Electrical Engineer and Independent Consulting Engineer

Mitch’s presentation provided an update on the status of the IEC TC 81 Lightning Protection Committee effort. Of particular interest was the IEC 62305, parts 1-4, which were published in January of 2006. Items highlighted included: the positioning of strike termination devices on tall structures, the dimensions of vertical and horizontal grounding electrodes, requirements for facilities with risk of explosion, personal safety issues and design/installation guidelines. Mitch also reviewed issues currently under consideration and shared information about various efforts underway that could have an effect on future bonding requirements and risk assessment calculations.

“Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. Program Overview/Update” – Presented by Karl Keip, UL Lightning Protection Service Business Manager

Karl’s presentation provided an overview of changes we can expect to see in UL’s lightning protection program, including: web design and

application form, certificate design, elimination of the “Letter of Findings”, notification of expiring applications, cancellation of old projects, new pricing structure coming in July of 2007, and a new UL 1449-Surge Protection standard. UL’s Phil Simonson reviewed the web-site design changes, such as: new search engine capabilities, separation of Public/Private news, log-in requirements for pricing info and a redesigned application summary page. UL ended its presentation with this question for our industry—“Should UL begin to require ground wells to facilitate inspections of grounding electrode systems and connections?” Karl asks that you forward your comments to: Lightningprotection@us.ul.com.

“NFPA 780-2007 Edition Update” – Presented by John Tobias, Principal Staff Engineer for the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command Safety Directorate & Current Chair of the NFPA Technical Committee

John’s presentation reviewed updates under consideration for the next edition of the NFPA standard. Revisions to NFPA 780 that are likely, include: revisions affecting installation requirements (i.e. bonding, grounding, air terminal placement for tall structures, etc.), information to address emerging industries such as wind turbines (new annex section), addressing new findings in lightning-related research, changes in the surge protection category to coordinate with the upcoming UL 1449 edition, and more clarifications for certain applications (i.e. stacks, watercraft, public safety). John urged industry members to participate in the Standard’s revision process by writing a proposal. Information on the NFPA ROP text can be accessed at www.nfpa.org.

“A&E Presentations Panel” – Presented by Mark Morgan of East Coast Lightning Equipment, Jim Barnard of Northeast Lightning Protection & George Portfleet of Michigan Lightning Protection.

Mark moderated this panel discussion which provided an overview of the LSA “Lightning Protection 101” AIA Continuing Education Service (CES) course for architects and construction planners. Jim treated the audience to a “Top 10 List” of why LSA members should want to present the course to their local architects, and George stressed benefits such as, networking, name-recognition and advantages that lightning protection firms can reap when they provide the course to professionals in their localities. The panel presentation prompted impressive discussion and input from our conference attendees.



The Lightning Protection Institute

Saving Lives & Protecting Property Since 1955

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