

FLASH NOTES



SAVING LIVES & PROTECTING PROPERTY SINCE 1955

*Scenes from the
2006 LPI/ULPA Conference
in Dallas, Texas*



Industry Converges in Dallas for 2006 LPI/ULPA Conference

The 2006 LPI/ULPA Conference put the power of knowledge and enlightenment in the hands of over 100 participants who converged in Dallas, Texas for the 74th annual conference. The annual meeting was held at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Marriott in Irving, Texas. Our hosts at Bonded Lightning Protection treated us to southern hospitality complete with barbecue, horseshoes, gunfighters, rodeo, dancing and all the other excitement of the Stockyards Station in the heart of Fort Worth. This year's conference was the second to be organized by LPI Executive Director, Bud VanSickle who put together an information-packed agenda which included reports by the following:

The NFPA 780-2007 Edition Update

Presented by John Tobias, principal staff engineer for the US Army and Communications-Electronics Command Safety Directorate &

Current Chair of the NFPA Technical Committee

This report provided an update of NFPA 780, including changes to expect in 2007. Some of the changes we will see in the next NFPA standard edition include semantics changes to incorporate new wording. (For example, "electrodes" becomes the new wording to replace "ground terminals.") Other changes include:

- conversions to metric terms
- clarifications regarding use of aluminum, strike terminations and provisions to strengthen bonding requirements.
- re-write and significant revisions of specific sections (shallow topsoil, surge protection, watercraft, stacks and annexes i.e. tree protection, risk assessment and a new annex section to address wind turbines.)

In summary, John Tobias stressed that NFPA 780 is undergoing changes affecting installation requirements and will be addressing several emerging issues and new findings. While the NFPA committee intends to go beyond reacting to submitted comments (there are 133 proposals currently in the review process), John encouraged members to submit proposals and participate in the standards process. Information on the NFPA ROP text can be accessed at www.nfpa.org.

IEC TC 81 Lightning Protection Status Report

Presented by Mitchell Guthrie, Senior Electrical Engineer and Independent Consulting Engineer

Our group received an update on the

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Implementation of a Strategic Plan for LPI

In May 2005, the LPI Board and some additional members met in Kansas City for a brainstorming session to move the organization forward through development of a strategic plan. A strategic plan states where the organization would propose to be in a 3 to 5 year period, and sets out actions to achieve those goals. The group took a hard look at the 50-year old organization with a new management team to assess the short term future. A good strategic plan builds on strengths, addresses weaknesses, exploits opportunities, and acknowledges threats from both personnel and organizational standpoints. The Board of Directors of the Lightning Protection Institute has adopted the following tenets of strategic planning to move the organization forward in the next 5-year period.

Vision

LPI will operate from an office in Missouri. LPI will have revenues of \$250,000 and operate within budget. LPI will contract with a management company for an Executive Director and 2 staff positions, along with consultants for specialized functions. LPI will offer support services and products for member use to develop lightning protection in construction markets. LPI will be technically advanced and offer improvements in programs. LPI will expand safety by growth of information services to decision makers and new marketplace contacts.

Mission Statement

LPI designs and develops information resources on complete lightning protection systems for consumers & specifiers. The LPI markets products to members for use in the construction industry. The focus is to develop the total market for lightning protection through promotion of National Standards with supporting loss data, experience from past design, and new information from research.

Organization Values

LPI operates in accordance with the high-

est standards in all relationships with customers, suppliers, and Standards authorities in the construction industry. LPI will foster a climate to encourage innovation and diligence for its Board of Directors, members, and contracted staff.

Organization Objectives

1. To expand the information to potential customers aggressively and offer member support services to further this effort.
2. To become the leading authority on safety through complete lightning protection systems in the construction marketplace.
3. To expand the size of the lightning protection market through education, additional specifications, and member revenues.

Goals (by the year 2010)

- All Architectural and/or Engineering offices in the U.S. will use LPI as their information source on lightning protection.
- Double the dollar value of lightning protection specified on construction projects.
- Have mandated lightning protection in place at 3 national organizations.
- Create the "information warehouse" structure for lightning protection education and research

Programs 2005

- Provide LPI member seal for drawings
- Provide technical support items on LPI website
- Revise LPI program charges
- Research Florida building code requirements for national process duplication
- Create program for all LPI member companies contact A&E firms each year
- Assess response & stat gathering for published events on the internet
- Consolidate members A&E databases

1st Quarter - 2006

- Create design standard for buildings requiring l.p., and target 3 national organizations to require l.p. (FL model)
- Obtain current insurance loss data and post it to LPI website for use
- Provide professional presentation training to membership for A&E calls at annual conference

Programs 2006

- Publish 10 articles in trade publications
- Display in national trade shows - 3 per year
- Educate targets on l.p. requirements & inspection standards (FL model)

Programs 2007

- Piggyback LPI Conference with AIA National Conference

Programs 2008

- Compile research on efficacy of l.p. per U.S. Standards
- Publish professional document - "21st Century System"

Programs 2009

- Inform total customer base of loss statistics & science of lightning protection

Programs 2010

- Specific mailing program to all A&E

Additional Program Development

- Fund research in lightning protection
- University sponsored presentation of papers on lightning protection

1st Annual LPI Membership Contest

The LPI office has been working hard to provide our membership with information, literature, promotional tools and industry support. At the Dallas conference the LPI held a contest to ask members to communicate five benefits provided by their current LPI membership, along with five benefits that they would like to receive in the future. We received over a dozen contest entries from members who shared their thoughts and ideas. The winning entry came from Guy Maxwell with Maxwell Lightning Protection, who went the distance to give us eight ideas for future consideration. Thank you to all who entered our contest and congratulations to Guy for submitting the winning entry which entitles him to free registration fees for the 2007 LPI/ULPA conference.



LPI member, Chad Reeves participates in the membership contest.

Conference (Continued From Page 1)

status of current actions underway by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Technical Committee on Lightning Protection (TC81). The presentation reviewed the status of each of the five parts of the IEC document and reported the results of the February 2006 Working Group meeting. Mitch also discussed changes in terminology and use of acronyms, the status of the IEC 62305 and what's next in terms of the Maintenance Teams "MT's" which will be addressing and providing updates on outstanding issues. Further information on Mitch's report can be found at: www.ansi.org or www.iec.ch.

"I Survived"

Presented by Michael Utley, lightning strike survivor and founder of Struckbylightning.org

This presentation provided our group with new insights into lightning, lightning safety and the science behind the lightning strike. A NOAA spokesperson for lightning safety, Michael is an acclaimed presenter and motivational speaker who delivers his dynamic safety programs to groups across the country. Struckbylightning.org manages an extensive lightning database that is truly one-of-a-kind. Michael's energetic presentation added an exciting and entertaining element to our conference program. The LPI hopes to work with Michael and his NOAA contacts on upcoming projects in connection with National Lightning Safety Awareness week in June.

Triggered Lightning Testing of the Performance of Grounding Systems

Presented by Brian DeCarlo, Electrical Engineer and Research Assistant, University of Florida's International Center for Lightning Research and Testing (ICLRT)

This presentation provided an update of the two-year study of the "lightning test house" in Camp Blanding, Florida which has been equipped with a real-world lightning protection system and subjected to triggered lightning. (The ICLRT is the only facility in the world where lightning is artificially initiated from natural thunderstorms on a regular basis for the purpose of studying its physics and effects.) Specific testing data was shared which revealed that the configuration of the 2004 lightning protection system performed better than the configuration of the 2005 system. The need for surge protection devices was also verified through the testing. Further information about the ICLRT test house can be found at www.lightningsafetyalliance.com.

Underwriters Laboratories Program Update

Presented by Karl Keip, UL Lightning Protection Service Business Manager and Rich Bouchard, UL Lightning Protection Supervisor

Our UL representatives provided a review of the UL Master Label Certificate program and an update on UL96A changes that will be seen in the upcoming revised edition, including changes in language terms and specific vs. general definitions. The upcoming UL document has been reorganized to follow the NFPA document more closely in terms of language, terminology and improve the flow of information. Additional lightning protection program news was shared with regard to: UL University certification classes, IAAI inspectors, upcoming website changes, and the 5-year Warranty Program for certificate renewals. For more news on UL's lightning protection program, visit the UL website at: www.ul.com/lightning.

Bonding, Grounding & Lightning Protection for Cellular Telephone or Microwave Radio Sites

Presented by Dan McMenamin, International Telecommunications Consultant

This presentation provided an overview of the principal elements of grounding, bonding and lightning protection for the telecommunications remote environment. Applications and requirements for cell sites, microwave sites, telephone switching centers and towers were reviewed. An overview of grounding standards, including antenna feed grounding and power plant grounding, soil testing procedures, bonding criteria applications, safety requirements and trouble-shooting for problem scenarios was also provided. Issues stressed in the presentation, included: the importance of safety, adhering to client's grounding standards, asking questions on the site, knowing the full ramifications prior to disconnecting grounds and being sensitive to "safe time" requirements or work operations to take place during specific off-hours.

Panels of Experts

This year's conference also featured two separate panel presentations hosted by industry professionals. "Hot Issues" hosted by Mitch Guthrie, John Tobias, Steve Humeniuk and Bud VanSickle touched on topics such as equipotential bonding, surge suppression, NEC code clarifications and risk management vs. risk assessment. Phil Youtsey hosted a panel featuring presentations by Kim Dillon, Heath Howe and Todd Vought who discussed the ins and outs of promoting lightning protection "lunch & learn" sessions to the engineering and architectural community. Both panels provided valuable information and prompted interesting group discussions.



The Lightning Protection Institute

Saving Lives & Protecting Property Since 1955

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