



NO MORE STATIC

Presented by Bonded Lightning Protection Systems of Florida

NOAA Kicks off Lightning Safety Awareness Week (LSAW)

June 22 - 28, 2008



Founded in 1932, the ULPA is an association of lightning protection manufacturers, engineers, contractors and technicians dedicated to promoting and supporting lightning protection codes and standards published by the National Fire Protection Association, Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. and the Lightning Protection Institute. Call us for information on ULPA membership at 1-800-668-ULPA.

The storm season has arrived bringing with it afternoon thunderstorms and bright lightning that fill the hot summer sky. Though it can be a pretty sight, this lightning is also extremely dangerous and deadly, and according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), it is considered one of the nation's deadliest weather phenomenas, killing an average of 62 people each year and injuring hundreds more.



In addition to the numerous deaths and injuries lightning causes each year in the United States, United Laboratories reports that lightning accounts for more than one billion dollars annually in structural damage to homes and buildings, and that dollar figure doesn't include the money loss, downtime and liability that businesses or commercial tenants face when they are forced to shut down to repair lightning damage.

More homes and businesses are becoming extremely vulnerable to lightning damage due to increases in utilities, expensive electronic equipment and metal building components. Packing up to 100 million volts of electricity and a force comparable to that of a small nuclear reactor, lightning has the power to rip through roofs, explode brick and concrete walls and ignite deadly fires, as well as cause costly damage to electronic equipment and appliances.

Despite these alarming statistics, lightning is often overlooked as a specific danger even though great devastation and both personal and financial loss can result from it. Through the LSAW, it is the goal the NOAA and the Lightning Protection Institute (LPI) to educate people of behaviors that put them at risk and to teach them how to protect both themselves and their property during a storm.

When considering lightning protection, consumers often look for qualified and experienced professionals, which is why it is important to be an LPI-certified specialist trained in accordance with national safety standards and to always be a member in good standing.

The Media is Your Friend—Use it to your Advantage!

The story below recently ran in the Brazil Times in preparation for Lightning Safety Week. In addition to discussing the rising insurance claims due to lightning they also ran a section on preventing losses which recommended having a lightning and surge protection system installed by a licensed professional.



Insurance Claims for Lightning Strikes on Rise *Brazil Times, Brazil, Indiana - 5/22/08*

They say that lightning never strikes in the same place twice, but for insurers, it strikes more than 250,000 times per year, causing hundreds of millions of dollars in damages. In fact, the total cost of homeowners claims for damage due to lightning strikes has increased dramatically -- up to 20 percent over the last three years.

According to a new Insurance Information Institute analysis of homeowners insurance data, there were 256,000 lightning claims in 2006, causing about \$882 million in insured losses.

The I.I.I. puts the average claim for lightning at \$3,446. By comparison, in 2004, there were about 278,000 lightning claims, which caused about \$735 million in insured losses, with the average claim totaling \$2,646. The average cost per claim rose 30 percent between 2004 and 2006 even as the actual number of claims fell by nearly 8 percent.

Homeowners insurance claims and payout for lightning damage caused by lightning, such as fire, is covered by standard homeowners and business insurance policies. Some home and business insurance policies provide coverage for power surges that are the direct result of lightning striking a home or business. There is also coverage for lightning damage under the comprehensive portion of an auto insurance policy.



UL Announces Newly Developed Lightning Standard Review Class

UL will be offering a newly developed two day workshop in select cities beginning in early fall. In this workshop, attendees will learn the key elements of UL 96A and NFPA780 and how they relate to each other. They will review the limitations of UL96A in military applications and what is required when developing inspection request for munitions applications. They will also provide helpful calculation tools for determining a zone of protection and participate in critical discussions about this protection strategy.

This workshop is targeted to Lightning Protection Installer & Designers, Project Managers, AHJ's, Architects and Facilities managers. For more information on this workshop, contact UL University at 888-503-5536.

The ULPA would like to once again thank their board members for all their hard work!

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****Note:** Kim Loehr apologizes for the accidental omission of Board Member, Kris Phillips, from our list in the March newsletter. Sorry for the omission!

ULPA/LPI 2009 Conference

Bonded Lightning Protection of Texas will be hosting the 2009 LPI/ULPA Conference in New Orleans, LA! Keep your eyes out for information which will be headed your way in the near future.

Thank you to Heath Howe and others at Bonded Lightning of Texas who are working hard to make sure that we have a GREAT Conference in the Big Easy!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Dennis Dillon, Bonded Lightning Protection
(of Florida)**

2008 Marks 35 years for Bonded Lightning Protection and Dennis Dillon! Established in 1892 in Washington DC, Dennis and his wife Diane brought Bonded Lightning to Florida in 1973 and have since grown the once two person operation to an established and well-respected business in Florida. Dennis has worked hard to not only establish Bonded Lightning as a leader in the lightning protection industry but has also dedicated his time and service to the ULPA, LPI & NFPA. The ULPA would like to say Thank You to Dennis for his many years of service!



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Upcoming Newsletter Duty Reminders:

Mark your calendars. The following members have volunteered to produce More Static Newsletters for the 2008/2009 season:

August newsletter: Simon Larter

October newsletter: Bret Peifer

December newsletter: Justin Harger

February/pre-conference newsletter: Heath Howe

Please remember to forward your newsletter materials to the ULPA office by the 15th of your assigned month. Contact Kim Loehr, ULPA President at LLpco@aol.com if you have questions.

Thanks for your cooperation!



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