



# NORE STATIC

Presented by Taylor Lightning Protection



## Houston the hub for study on lightning protection

Houston's not the lightning capital of the United States - but it's close. With its proximity to a nearly endless supply of warm, humid coastal air that breeds thunderstorms, Houston attracts more lightning than any part of Texas, with an average of more than 15 bolts striking every square mile of the city each year.

It's not a boast-worthy title. Reaching temperatures several times hotter than the surface of the sun, lightning kills about four people in Texas a year second only to Florida, with just like - what else? - a lightning rod into warm Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico waters.

Scientists now believe they can improve their predictions of which thunderstorm will produce lightning by studying the meteorological seeds within clouds that lead to ground strikes.

To accomplish this, a team of researchers, led by Texas A&M University's Dick Orville, have finished installing a network of 12 sensors across the greater Houston area to detect electromagnetic energy within storm clouds.

The effort is not just academics as more people are killed by lightning, on average, than any other type of severe weather, and lightning causes about \$2 billion a year in U.S. damage.

Foremost, Orville said, is feeding early warning information to Houston residents about cloud lightning, which can occur as much as 20 minutes before a storm produces ground strikes.

"The bottom line is that we'd like to save lives," he said.

To accomplish that, Orville has begun working with the Houston/Galveston office of the National Weather Service to incorporate information from the sensors into the service's radar and warning systems.

As anyone who has listened to a radio program during a thunderstorm can attest, lightning discharges emit energy across the electromagnetic spectrum. The twelve sensors arrayed across Houston will monitor regions of the electromagnetic spectrum where there's little commercial transmission.

Each sensor can detect up to 10,000 bits of data per second, and with multiple sensors tracking each discharge, the system can pinpoint the exact location and intensity of each instance of cloud lightning.

The public will have access to the real-time lightning data through a Web site maintained by Texas A&M.



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.



## Do you provide health insurance for your employees.



### COBRA Continuation Coverage Assistance Under The American Recovery And Reinvestment Act

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provides for premium reductions and additional election opportunities for health benefits under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, commonly called COBRA. Eligible individuals pay only 35 percent of their COBRA premiums and the remaining 65 percent is reimbursed to the coverage provider through a tax credit. The premium reduction applies to periods of health coverage beginning on or after February 17, 2009 and lasts for up to nine months for those eligible for COBRA during the period beginning September 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2009 due to an involuntary termination of employment that occurred during that period. The TAA Health Coverage Improvement Act of 2009, enacted as part of ARRA, also made changes with regard to COBRA continuation coverage.

Bottom line, if you fire an employee for cause, and they pay 35 percent of the insurance premium you are on the hook for the other 65 percent until the end of the year.

Learn more about it at [www.dol.gov/ebsa/cobra.html](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/cobra.html).



**Tom Weir,  
Taylor  
Lightning  
Protection (Texas)**



For over 20 years, Tom and his wife Ann have been overseeing the day-to-day operations of Taylor Lightning Protection Systems in the Texas Gulf coast areas. A former top salesman in the oil and gas business, Tom purchased Taylor Lightning Protection in 1986 and grew the company from two installers to over 30 full time employees. Designing and installing Lightning Protection Systems, Taylor has an impeccable reputation as a quality assured contractor. Major installations include Reliant Stadium, Minute Mid Park, the Toyota Center, American Airlines Arena, NASA and countless others across the state of Texas. Not bad for a small town boy from East Texas (Tenaha, TX). Don't recognize Tom? Look for the man behind the glass of red wine.

**” Yeaahhhh... We’re going to Nashville, Tennessee on Saint Patrick’s Day!!! Yeaahhhh!!!!”**

ULPA/LPI Annual Conference—March 15-20, 2010  
Nashville, TN - (Details forthcoming - yeaahhhh!!!)

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"It was a rare accident. Lightning struck his bed pan."

### Can lightning occur in a snow storm?

Yes, lightning CAN occur during a snow-storm when a really intense cold front slams into warmer air—say, as the seasons change. It may also be more common around a coastal area, where there can be large temperature differences between the ocean and the land.



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