

# FLASH NOTES

SAVING LIVES & PROTECTING PROPERTY SINCE 1955



## Lightning Protection Industry Meets in the Big Easy

For the 77th Annual LPI/ULPA Conference on Lightning Protection.

**T**he 77th annual conference was a huge success with over 100 industry members and guests traveling to New Orleans, LA, for meetings and a chance to experience Mardi Gras. Mike Riley of Bonded Lightning Protection and Jeff Regan of Erico served as gracious hosts in organizing hotel, hospitality and special events to make our visit to the Big Easy memorable. The week kicked off with Mardi Gras festivities and ended with the industry awards banquet, which included a delicious buffet of traditional New Orleans cuisine, a motivational speaker and an inspirational jazz musician.

In addition to enjoying the sights and sounds of New Orleans, LPI and ULPA members were treated to a full educational program which included dynamic speakers and presentations. Highlights from the education sessions included:

**“New Model Contract Documents & Issues”**  
Michael P. Davis, Esq. Chamberlain, Hrdlica, White, Williams & Martin

Michael shared expertise on construction law practices, contract disputes, arbitration, mediation and issues of concern to subcontractors. His presentation also reviewed contract language, conditioning bids, retainages, lien laws and consensus documents—all valu-

able information for protecting contract and business rights in a tough economy.

**“Surge Protection Safety”**

Louis A. Farquhar, PE, CEM, GBE, Advanced Protection Technologies

With a wealth of experience in electrical engineering, Lou is an instructor with the Florida Board of Professional Engineers CES program, and IEEE’s CES program. Lou shared an overview of surge protection and reviewed upcoming changes for UL 1449 and implications for UL 96A.

**“Lightning Protection Roundtable”**

Lance Fleming & George Portfleet

Lance and George lead a forum discussion to address installation scenarios and issues of concern to installers. The discussion centered on UL interpretations, Master Label inspections and future implications regarding the phase-out of ULs surge exemption.

**“UL Program Overview & Update ”**

by Rich Bouchard

Rich provided a review to update attendees on changes planned for ULs lightning protection program. Items discussed included: intensified grounding requirements for future inspections, reintroduction of the Letter of Findings, phase-out of the surge

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Scenes from Mardi Gras and the 2009 LPI/ULPA Conference in New Orleans, LA.

# Lightning Protection News & Notes



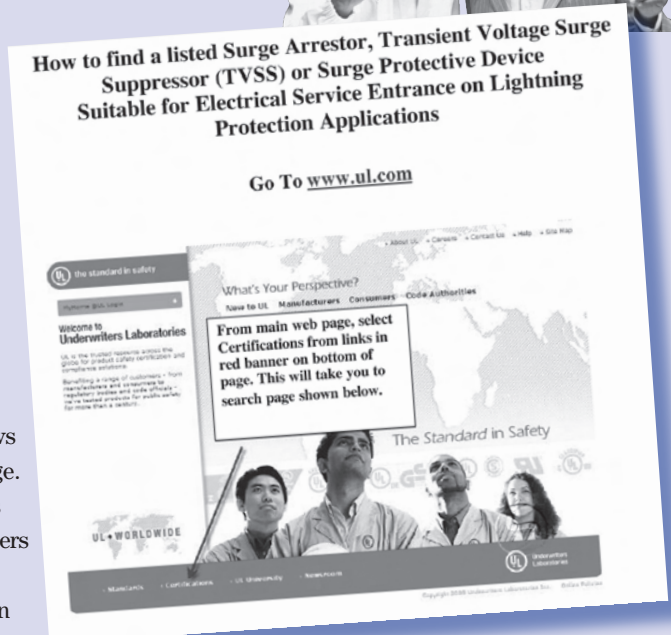
the standard in safety



## UL Q&A Corner

UL is posting a new document, "How to Find Listed Surge Devices for Lightning Protection" in the news portion of its web page. This new document is intended to help installers locate information about surge protection and program requirements.

Questions regarding lightning protection and lightning protection requirements can be emailed to: [lightningprotection@us.ul.com](mailto:lightningprotection@us.ul.com)



## Engineering Seminar Set for May 2009, in Virginia

LPI is hosting a comprehensive two-day seminar for individuals interested in the methodology behind the design and layout of lightning protection systems for all types of structures. The seminar is based on the *NFPA 780 2008 Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems* and is registered with the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) for continuing education credits. The seminar will be held in Alexandria, VA on May 13-14, 2009 and cost is \$750 (\$675 for LPI members), which includes lunch, breaks and course materials. Visit the LPI web site at [www.lightning.org](http://www.lightning.org) for details and registration information.

## 2009 Trade Show Season

LPI is making plans to take our lightning protection message on the road and exhibit at these and other upcoming trade shows, scheduled for 2009:

- American Institute of Architects (AIA)  
*April 30-May 2, San Francisco*
- NFPA World Safety Conference & Expo  
*June 8-10, Chicago*
- Construction Specification Institute (CSI)\*  
*June 17-19, Indianapolis*
- International Facility Management Assoc.  
*October 7-9, Orlando*
- IBHS Annual Conference on Property Loss Reduction  
*December 1-2, Tampa*

\* (VanSickle will cover the LSA 101 course materials as a presenter at the CSI Trade Show.)

## A Round Of Thanks!

A very special **THANK YOU** to Mike Riley and Jeff Regan for hosting this year's conference and coordinating social functions for industry members. LPI also wishes to thank our generous sponsors who contributed money and/or prizes to support this year's conference:

- **Bonded Lightning Protection (Argyle, Texas)**
- **HLP Systems, Inc.**
- **Maxwell Lightning Protection of Florida**
- **Guardian Equipment**
- **Bonded Lightning Protection Systems (Jupiter, FLA)**
- **Thompson Lightning Protection, Inc.**
- **ERICO, Inc.**
- **East Coast Lightning Equipment**
- **Harger, Inc.**
- **Preferred Lightning Protection**
- **Hicks Lightning Protection**

Below: Dennis Dillon and Mike Riley are "Bonded" in thanking the LPI/ULPA Conference sponsors.



## 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

LPI is seeing continued success with editors printing our feature stories, news articles and press releases on lightning protection. Here's a sampling of two recent articles about lightning protection maintenance and re-roofing that have helped put our message and LPI in the spotlight. Copies of these and other article can be accessed on the LPI web site.



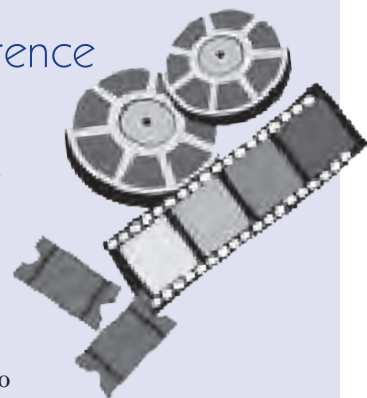
## Lightning Protection Chapter

In accordance with the LPI Strategic Plan, Bud VanSickle has authored a 15-page paper, titled "Lightning Protection Overview." This "lightning protection chapter" will be available on the LPI web site and will be mailed out with LPI-175 Standard books. The chapter will also be available to architects and engineers as general information resource. Future editions of the LPI-175 Standard will also include this information.



## Industry Video Unveiled at Conference

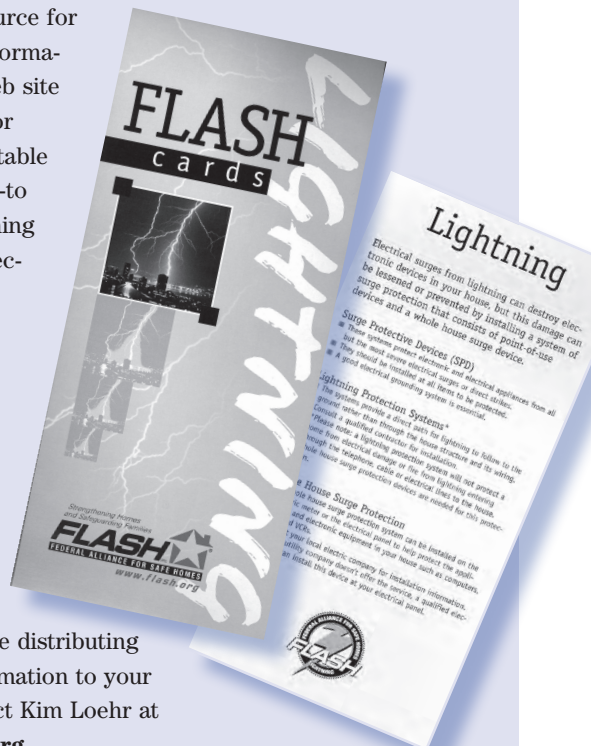
LPI previewed the new 8½ minute industry video at 2009 LPI/ULPA Conference. Complimentary copies of the video were issued to LPI Dealer Contractor members, as a membership benefit. We hope you will use this new marketing tool in your presentations to engineers, architects and customers. The video is also suitable for trade shows, fairs and educational presentations—the possibilities are endless. They say a "picture is worth a thousand words" so use this video to educate specifiers, consumers and even new employees on the importance of lightning protection.



## Gear Up for Lightning Safety Awareness Week 2009

NOAA's Lightning Safety Awareness Week is scheduled for June 21-27, 2009. LPI is planning a variety of PR events in conjunction with the yearly campaign. Visit [www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov) for lightning statistics, campaign materials and media information. The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, Inc. – FLASH is another good resource for lightning safety information. Visit their web site at [www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org) for FLASH cards, printable resources and how-to videos about lightning and lightning protection and share this information with your customers.

Lightning Safety Awareness Week is a great opportunity to capitalize on publicity in your neck of the woods. If you need assistance distributing press release information to your local media, contact Kim Loehr at [kiml@lightning.org](mailto:kiml@lightning.org)





# The Lightning Protection Institute

Saving Lives & Protecting Property Since 1955

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## *The 77th Annual LPI/ULPA Conference* *Continued from page 1*

exemption and the Collaborative Standards Development System (venue for Standard changes/initiatives). Rich also addressed questions and reminded attendees to refer to the UL News Section to view quarterly updates for lightning protection program information.

### **“Updated Insurance Statistics on Lightning Losses”**

*by Jeanne Salvatore, Insurance Information Institute (III)*

As the senior vice president of Public Affairs at the III, Jeanne plays a public role in representing the insurance industry. She works closely with the media as a spokesperson for insurance-related issues. The III contributes to thousands of news stories a year and fields nearly 50,000 questions from consumers. The III also publishes an array of pamphlets and books to provide consumer support on insurance topics. Jeanne shared a statistical overview of lightning claims and costs to consumers and the insurance indus-

try. She also discussed ways our industry can work with insurers to encourage incentives for lightning protection systems.

### **“Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) and Lightning Protection”**

*by Mark Morgan, ECLE*

Mark’s presentation reviewed the latest information on the CSST gas tubing issue as it relates to lightning protection, bonding and grounding. He also outlined installation measures for installers to be aware of when providing lightning protection systems for homes or businesses where CSST is present.

### **“Advancing Disaster Safety through Story Telling”**

*by Leslie Chapman-Henderson, President/CEO, Federal Alliance for Safe Homes*

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 shared information regarding ways FLASH has championed the cause of disaster-resilient construction

through groundbreaking consumer awareness programs. Such programs include, the recently-launched StormStruck: A Tale of Two Homes at INNOVENTIONS at Walt Disney’s Epcot and “Blueprint for Safety” an educational program on disaster-resistant construction. LPI looks forward to exploring networking and collaborative opportunities which may exist between FLASH and our industry.

### **“Protecting a Living Resource from Lightning”**

*by Thomas Smiley, PhD, Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory*

Tom is an arboricultural researcher, adjunct professor of urban forestry at Clemson and serves as a technical advisor to the American National Standards Institute A300. Tom shared research findings regarding the effects of connectors, conductors and terminal efficacy, as well as lightning-related root damage. Future research in this area is intended to improve system design and installation practices so that arborists can effectively protect more trees and people.

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