

The logo for VAISALA, consisting of the word "VAISALA" in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a blue background.

ILDC/ILMC Strikes Again
Network with lightning
experts from around the world

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www.vaisala.com/ILDC



Human Lightning Casualties Related to Fishing and Tending Animals

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Abstract

Lightning casualties in the course of manual labor-intensive agricultural activity while tending crops during planting, tilling, and harvesting were summarized at the 2016 ILMC. In developing countries there is a separate but related group of lightning-caused fatalities and injuries to people related to fishing, and raising livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats, and chickens. These activities are often a primary source of wealth and income for families. In more developed regions of the world, fishing and caring for animals tend to occur in recreational situations.

Recent cases will be summarized from available web, newspaper, and other media reports; most are since 2000. Several hundred events each for fishing and tending animals will be described that involve at least one human death or injury from lightning. The activity, location, age, gender, and number of casualties per event will be determined when possible from reports. A number of reports involve the increasing number of people in developing countries who are raising fish in controlled situations. Some of the animal cases occur while tilling the ground, as well as people collecting feed for these animals. Some events involve people taking shelter in small structures or under trees to avoid rain while tending to animals. The types and numbers of animals will also be summarized, although this study does not provide a comprehensive study of such losses.

Lightning casualties from the United States will be listed separately since they tend to occur in activities such as fishing for recreation and horseback riding rather than generating income. It is hoped that the results of this study based on a large number of cases will provide a better understanding of the multiple dangers from lightning while fishing and tending animals for a livelihood or during recreation.

Topic Areas

Lightning Safety, Protection, and Casualty Occurrence

Submission Format

Poster