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for the Lightning Protection Institute

NEW LIGHTNING PROTECTION INSPECTION PROGRAM GROWING IN ACCEPTANCE

SINGER ISLAND, FL, March 5, 2012 – A new inspection program designed to provide quality assurance to property owners and their insurers that the lightning protection systems installed at homes and businesses comply with national safety standards is becoming widely accepted as the highest standard in the industry.

The Lightning Protection Institute (LPI), which developed and conducts the program, reported that 340 structures in 27 states were inspected since the program became fully operational less than one year ago.

The (LPI-IP) includes on-site inspection services, follow-up inspection reports and the issuance of certification for lightning protection systems that comply with LPI, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standards.

“The Lightning Protection Institute Inspection Program provides an inspection and certification service more thorough and more complete than any other now available,” said Tim Harger, program manager. “Through the use of check points, engineering and design reviews and on-site inspections, the LPI certification program ensures safety and peace of mind to building owners across the United States.”

Insured losses related to damage from lightning strikes topped more than \$1 billion in the U.S. for the first time in 2008. The 213,000 lightning claims in 2010 (most recent data available) represent a 15 percent increase from 2009. The Insurance Information Institute (I.I.I.) puts the cost of the average lightning claim at \$4,846.

Harger explained that the program is designed to serve a growing need expressed by property owners, insurers and builders for a comprehensive third-party inspection approach for commercial and residential lightning protection projects.

He also said the LPI recently initiated a Campus Re-Inspection Program for sites having four or more buildings in a local area that require re-certification of their lightning protection systems. Under the program, campus employees will be trained as inspectors and must complete an LPI-IP inspection program.

Harger said three types of certificate and inspection options are offered. A new option for those with multiple buildings needing ongoing certifications will be available shortly. Fees range from \$575 to \$1,575 for LPI members. Fees are higher for non-members. Certificates carry a three year expiration date.

More information is available at the LPI-IP web site www.lpi-ip.com.

The LPI is a not-for-profit, nationwide group founded in 1955 to promote lightning safety, awareness and protection education. The organization provides a certification program to qualify competence in lightning protection installation, design and inspection. The LPI offers a list of certified contractors across the United States. Visit the LPI Web site, www.lightning.org, for more information about lightning protection.