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Week ending 16 August 2019

Welcome to **ELPA NEWS**

We bring you the latest news and updates on events in the Earthing & Lightning Protection Industry.



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Why join ELPA?

The Earthing and Lightning Protection Association (ELPA) has been formed to bring the industry together, to protect the consumer and to establish a uniform interpretation of the codes of practice by aligning the codes of practice in regulations, standards and legislation to effective protection of lives and property. To ensure that the industry has a recognisable framework within which to operate.

We do...

- ✓ Form an important addition to the safety standard in the South African Lightning Protection Industry.
- ✓ Offer certification of qualified designers, installers and inspectors.
- ✓ Support tertiary education through coordination to develop training apprenticeship at all levels.
- ✓ Support Architects, Structural, Consulting and Electrical Engineers through their representative bodies.

[JOIN US](#)





Our Services



CERTIFICATION

- To Installers, Designers and Inspectors
- For SETA/SAQA/QCTO registration
- For Installations with ISR and Maintenance Report of SANS 10142



RECORD KEEPING

- All ELPA Member exams
- Free Industrial Safety Review formats for Installers and Designers
- Industrial Safety Reviews
 - Drawings



MEMBERSHIP

- Five levels of Membership
- Reduced Training Fees
- Reduced Training Manual fees
- Weekly Newsletter
- Reduced Advertising rates



EVENTS

- ELPA/AREP seminar
Cape Town - 14 Aug 2019
JHB - 20 Aug 2019
- Nigeria Lightning Seminar
Date TBC

1

LETTER FROM NATIONAL DIRECTOR

A disruptor this past week has been the first joint collaborating seminar between ELPA and AREP hosted in Paarl at the picturesque Marlenique Estate
[Read more](#)

3

WOMAN DIES AFTER BEING STRUCK BY LIGHTNING WHILE HIKING IN SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

A woman who died after being struck by lightning while walking on a mountain range in the Scottish Highlands has been named as Isobel Bytautas. [Read more](#)

2

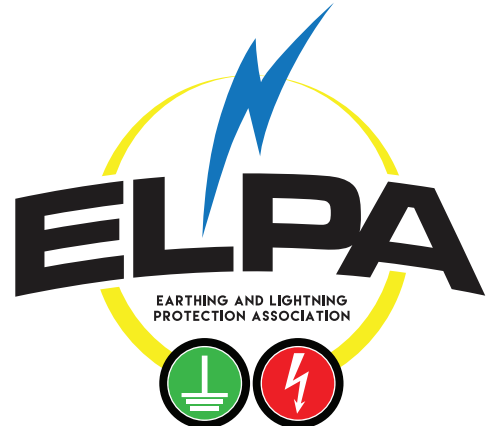
FEEDBACK ON THE EARTHING & LIGHTNING SEMINAR - CAPE TOWN

The first seminar that ELPA has hosted was co-hosted with AREP (Association for Renewable Energy Practitioners) on a fruit farm and wedding venue in Paarl.
[Read more](#)

4

LIGHTNING STRIKES 1000 TIMES IN AN HOUR IN EASTBOURNE

A prolific thunderstorm in Eastbourne last night saw lightning strike around 1000 times in one hour.
[Read more](#)



Upcoming Events



20 AUG Earthing & Lightning Seminar - JHB

This Earthing & Lightning Seminar is aimed at informing stakeholders, system designers, contractors, consultants and other interested parties on the topic of Earthing, Lightning and Surge Protection for Solar PV Plants. Don't miss this brilliant opportunity to learn something from our experts.

BOOK NOW



22 AUG SAIEE Technical Talks - Lightning

Join the SAIEE in their first SAIEE Technical Talks (ST-Talks) at the head office in Johannesburg.

A unique networking event 15 minute talks from the authors of the feature articles in the wattnow magazine. Book your seat now!

BOOK NOW

EARTHING & LIGHTNING SEMINAR
Surge Protection for Solar PV Plants

www.earthingandlightning.com

One Day Seminar
Earthing, Lightning and Surge Protection for Solar PV Plants
1 DAY · 1 CHANCE · DON'T MISS OUT!

CAPE TOWN
14 AUGUST 2019
MARLENIQUE ESTATE
Paarl, South Africa
(CLICK HERE FOR MAP)

JOBURG
20 AUGUST 2019
MIDRAND CONFERENCE CENTRE
Johannesburg, South Africa
(CLICK HERE FOR MAP)

ALL ABOUT THE SEMINAR

AREP (Association for Renewable Energy Practitioners) and ELPA (Earthing Lightning Protection Association) will be hosting two, 1-day seminars covering Earthing, Lightning and Surge Protection for Solar PV systems.

This Earthing & Lightning Seminar is aimed at informing stakeholders, system designers, contractors, consultants and other interested parties on the topic of Earthing, Lightning and Surge Protection for Solar PV Plants. An increasing number of PV plants are being damaged by surges and lightning, this seminar focuses on this problem and provides information and solutions within the industry.

- Get an update on the **LATEST STANDARDS FOR SOLAR PV INSTALLATIONS**
- Find out how to identify areas where the risk of **SURGES DAMAGING SOLAR PLANTS** can be reduced
- Learn about **INDUSTRY TRENDS** and solutions
- Discover how to **PROLONG THE LIFE** and safety of a solar PV Plant

INDUSTRY RELEVANT TOPICS:

- » Sustainable Solar PV Sector Growth
- » Designing of Effective and Safe Lightning Protection
- » Principles Included in Lightning Risk Analysis
- » Case Studies of LPS on Solar Rooftop
- » Installation Standards

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Visit our website for additional information

Proudly hosted by:





FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

A disruptor this past week has been the first joint collaborating seminar between ELPA and AREP hosted in Paarl at the picturesque Marlenique Estate – home of the first floating solar PV plant with a generating capacity of 60kWpk supplemented with a land-based 530kWpk installation.

Why was it a disruptor? Because we have some severe foundations to lay within ELPA starting with;

- building our support infrastructure to establish a sound source of competent people to employ within our growing businesses;
- growing the awareness of safety and asset security within the South African communities – ELPA is engaging with representative bodies and media houses. ELPA is joining forces with organizations who will convey that objective and sustainable message;
- growing the awareness to the point where ignorance becomes an uncertain contributor to non-compliance and losses rather than its current destructive force within a divided society;
- growing the awareness to safe procurement specifications where the only difference in the solutions will be innovative designs and smart application of compliant materials to ensure cost-effective working protective solutions – no more short cuts and cost-cutting through non-compliance;
- unifying the standards following the operational and production business requirements and the threat to human life and property damage – that is, link our standards to the successful deployment of compliance to cost-effective working solutions rather than enforcing expensive solutions and condoning sub-standard “affordable” quick-fixes;
- building bi-directional governance trust and supporting government departments in leading the way to building an apprenticeship program, competence expertise and compliance support;
- transferring extended installer certification into a managed annual

renewal without creating confusion;

- assisting the remaining companies who still need to register with ELPA given their individually certified installers;
- launch the certification and inspections task force in earnest;
- establish committees pertaining to each area of ELPA responsibility deploying the correct people from our Association following their natural passions and skills, and
- initiate and nurture relationships with Associations and industries that are impacted by or will have an impact on the threat of lightning. One such significant industry is Insurance, and I will keep mentioning them.

The above says that ELPA has a long way to go to being a sustainable Association with deep roots making significant inroads.

The first step for certified installers is the installer certification renewals – the Board has agreed on a renewal price significantly lower than the examination prices. Please be aware that you will need to renew in September if you want to retain your installer certification status. You will receive a notification with an invoice due by the end of September. Failing to renew your installer certification means your certification will lapse and you will need to rewrite your exam under the new framework.

Then finally, see the news on the co-hosted *“Earthing and Lightning Seminar on Surge Protection for Solar PV Plant”*. The event in Cape Town was both enlightening and encouraging. The next one is on Tuesday 20th August in Midrand – there are still seats available and will be open for bookings even on the day of the event. Don't miss out! I would love to meet you there!

Have a good week.
Richard



Richard Evert

[GO BACK](#)



OUR RECENT EVENT



The first seminar that ELPA has hosted was co-hosted with AREP (Association for Renewable Energy Practitioners) on a fruit farm and wedding venue in Paarl. The home of the first commercially operated floating solar PV system on the continent – producing 60kW of power - Installed by New Southern Energy (NSE) on the farm's dam: Read more about it -

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/energy/303136/this-farm-just-got-off-eskoms-grid-using-a-floating-solar>

Professor Chandima Gomes of Wits University, and a man with many years experience across the world gave a lecturer's rendition of the forward and reverse bias of solar panel circuits. Those same circuits can be destroyed by lightning strikes when allowed to run wild on a solar PV Plant.



We were fortunate enough to secure the services of NSE Chief Technical Officer Ryno Jordaan to give us a rundown of the installation and how it worked.

Carel Ballack, President of AREP, delivered the keynote address. He highlighted statistics that affirm the growth of renewable energies and the many aspects that make solar PV an essential contributor to the future energy solutions.

The event was well attended, but I couldn't help feeling that "we don't have lightning" probably kept just as many people away. As ELPA, we have a long way to go to share the message of lightning threat, and we need to be starting in-house. The day ended with a panel discussion with Director Jake (Jacob) Malatse – Head of the Department of Labour (DoL) Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Directorate. Jake fielded important questions and affirmed that the drive to develop AIA level inspectors through ELPA would be supported for the instances where there is a shortage of AIA personnel. This is a critical announcement that must be emphasized can only be realized with close development with the DoL. Also essential is the understanding that signing of Certificates of Compliance (CoC) must go hand-in-hand with site supervision and not payment for a piece of paper. From ELPA, the importance of the ISR was re-emphasized, and Alexis declared that there was an enormous need for designers and inspectors in the lightning industry.

Alexis Barwise gave a sterling account of what is entailed in effective and safe lightning protection system designs. He delivered this with many entertaining and relevant tidbits that you should have been there to appreciate.



Nick Roche of Rubicon and Gary Thoresson of Testing Guys gave presentations on their products that you will be able to hear next week on Tuesday for yourself.

We cannot share more detail – if you are in Gauteng, why not register now and join us on Tuesday 20 August at the Midrand Conference Centre? Adverts are included in the newsletter. Either pay online or [register online](#) and contact Jacky Dougherty at info@elpasa.org.za to send you an invoice for payment. Registration will stay open until Tuesday morning.

Dr Pieter H Pretorius discussed detail factors of the SANS/IEC standards. You have to be aware of these Standards when designing lightning protection for solar PV plants, as they are incomplete.

[GO BACK](#)