

## **E1-15 Lightning activity within 100 km of Colombo**

K R Abhayasingha Bandara, A U P S Kodituwakku  
(Dept. of Meteorology, Colombo)

Lightning characteristics such as time and place of activity and the development of thunder cells depend on a number of geographical, topographical, environmental and meteorological parameters.

A study was carried out to observe, identify and estimate the characteristics and hazards of lightning and development of cumulonimbus clouds within an area of 100 km of Colombo during October to December 1995. Lightning and thunder were observed at 17 locations on a half hourly basis. A number of places struck by lightning were inspected. Upper wind data at Colombo was analyzed to see their influence in developing thunder clouds.

It was found that lightning activity during the second inter monsoon period, 1995 was mostly confined to the period between 1430 and 1830 h with a maximum between 1600 and 1700 h in the area of 100 km of Colombo, lightning activity is significant over the western slopes of the hills, light winds (speed less than 10 knots) above 1 km Above Sea Level (ASL) enhance the development of thunder clouds and damages by lightning are enhanced by electrical circuitry.

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