**At least 90 Yemenis die in lightning strikes in 2 months**

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AL-MUKALLA: Lightning strikes killed 45 people in Yemen in July, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization said, while local media reported almost the same number of lightning-related deaths this month.

In a routine agrometeorological alert issued on Wednesday, the FAO reported that intense lightning activity and thunderstorms last month killed 45 people and large numbers of livestock, mainly in Yemen’s highland provinces.

“Overall, field reports indicate that 45 people and several herds of livestock were confirmed dead across Yemen. As the kharif rainy season continues, there is a high likelihood of sustained lightning activities across much of Yemen. Lightning remains an active threat to pastoral farming across much of Yemen,” it said.

The report coincided with claims by local media and testimonies from individuals indicating that at least 45 Yemenis have been killed by lightning strikes since the start of August.

Two children died last week when lightning struck their home in the Bajel district of Hodeidah, a province in western Yemen, according to locals. A young man in the same property escaped unhurt.

Most lightning-related fatalities were recorded in mountainous provinces, such as Amran, Mahweet, Sanaa, and Hajjah.

This month, lightning struck Mohammed Hassan Al-Hajj’s home in the Hufash district of Al-Mahweet region, killing him while he slept.

Numerous Yemenis shared on social media the image of Qusay Ghawth, a young man who was struck and killed by lightning in Aflah Al-Sham in the Hajjah district.

In the Khamir district of Amran’s highland province, a shepherd and more than 40 of her animals were killed by a lightning strike while they huddled near a cliff.

Yemen’s Red Crescent estimates there have been 150 lightning-related deaths and injuries since the beginning of the year.

It has urged Yemenis to take “simple” precautions, including turning off mobiles and landlines, disconnecting the internet, unplugging chargers and solar power panels, avoiding sheltering under trees, and staying indoors during thunderstorms.