**Nord-Kivu : 5 dead by lightning at Rutshuru [Republic of Congo]**

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[https://www.radiookapi.net/2021/04/05/actualite/societe/nord-kivu-5-morts-par-la-foudre-rutshuru](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.radiookapi.net%2F2021%2F04%2F05%2Factualite%2Fsociete%2Fnord-kivu-5-morts-par-la-foudre-rutshuru&data=04%7C01%7Cron.holle2%40vaisala.com%7C9e1f74802a034a13eb5d08d8f9db12ce%7C6d7393e041f54c2e9b124c2be5da5c57%7C0%7C0%7C637534066597677660%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=BuDO1o8e%2FvjmT8s4RyfjvUL74On5H0WtAGujhLHU6%2Bc%3D&reserved=0)

Five people were killed and another seriously injured by lightning during a torrential downpour on Saturday, April 3, in the village of Mabuye, about 3 km south of the town of Bunagana, in the Jomba groupement in Rutshuru territory.

According to the local civil society, the incident occurred at around 12:00 p.m. local time (10:00 a.m. GMT) when three women, two children and a man were surprised by bursts of lightning as they were collecting cassava in their field.

Five of the victims, adds the civil society, died on the spot and another was seriously injured. She was evacuated to Rutshuru-Centre for appropriate care.

Already, at around 6 p.m. local time (4 p.m. GMT), other farmers in the same area were worried about the fate of their companions.

They testified that they had called them several times, without any answer. So they decided to run to the neighboring field. There, they found the five electrocuted bodies, while another victim was still struggling between life and death.

Informed of the tragedy, the chief of the village Mabuye went to the place of the tragedy, to proceed to the evacuation of the bodies of the people struck by lightning.

The bodies of all the victims were buried on Sunday, according to traditional sources.

Source: Stéphane Schmitt by email at sts@meteorage.com.