**Lightning strikes dead tea worker in Kericho [Kenya]**

By [NIKKO TANUI](https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/author/nikko-tanui) | November 15th 2020 at 15:21:22 GMT +0300

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/rift-valley/article/2001394032/lightning-strikes-dead-tea-worker-in-kericho>

[Lighting struck dead](https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/rift-valley/article/2001328228/lightning-strikes-four-in-drinking-den) a tea worker at Unilever Tea Estate on Sunday.

The company's corporate affairs director Joseph Mitei said the incident happened after the 42-year-old tea leaf inspector at Cheimen Tea Estate stepped out of protected tea collection area.

"The workers had been directed to take shelter at the shed after Lighting Detection Systems (LDS) indicated that there was a likelihood of a lightning strike in the area. However, for some reason the deceased walked out of the protection area and was unfortunately struck dead a few metres from the protected zone," he said.

Mitei said the company has invested heavily in erecting lighting arrestors and other equipment since the tea estates are susceptible to lightning strikes.

"We have covered all of our properties including the residential houses, office and schools in all the estates straddling Kericho and Bomet County," he said.

Kenya Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union (Kpawu) Kericho Branch Executive Dickson Sang called on the company to train the workers further so that they can manage to interpret messages from Lightning Detection Systems (LDS) easily and understand how it works.

"The training should be comprehensive,” he said.

At the same time, Sang called on the company to support the deceased's widow who has been left behind to take care of the couple's eight children by herself.