

Lightning Strikes 6, leaves 1 critical [Swaziland]

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LIGHTNING STRIKES 6, LEAVES 1 CRITICAL

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SIX people were on Christmas Day rushed to hospital after being struck by lightning at Maphungwane, leaving one family homeless.

The incident is said to have happened just after 3 p m while most families were still enjoying the celebrations of the day.

It is said dark clouds started gathering just after the lunch hour, indicating that a heavy storm was about to strike. Residents said a few moments later, the area experienced a heavy rainfall which was accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning.

This lasted for approximately 40 minutes, before the situation calmed down and returned to normal. It was then that reports of destruction in some homesteads emerged.

Sustained A certain Bongani Ndzimandze of Shololo area reported that his neighbour's house (who is actually his sister) was struck by the lightning, and it was completely burnt down. The house, which was roofed with grass, was occupied by five people who sustained in-

juries during the incident.

These were four children and their mother. The family is said to have been using this hut as their main house.

The five family members were rushed to Good Shepherd Hospital where they



were treated for burn injuries. Ndzimandze reported that the family now has no shelter as their house was burnt to ashes.

“Currently, the woman and her children are accommodated at another neighbouring homestead as they have nowhere to go after their house was burnt,” said Ndzimandze.

He appealed for assistance from-



AFTERMATH: A hut at Ka-Shewula was burnt down after it was struck by lightning on Christmas Day. Julia Maliba showing the damage which was estimated at E5 000.



members of the public in constructing a temporal structure for the family.

Meanwhile, another woman at Hhukwane area under the same chiefdom was also reported to have been struck by the lightning on the same day. As a result of the incident, the woman was admitted at the hospital as she sustained severe injuries during the incident. She is said to have been struck by

the lightning while alone at her homestead.

She was rescued by neighbours who responded swiftly when she raised an alarm after being struck by the lightning.