**Rare lightning bolt hits Mutare (Zimbabwe)**

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[**http://www.thezimbabwean.co/2015/03/rare-lightning-bolt-hits-mutare/**](http://www.thezimbabwean.co/2015/03/rare-lightning-bolt-hits-mutare/)

An international journal has published a photograph of a rare lightning strike over Zimbabwe taken by a Mutare resident last month. Dr Peter Lowenstein took the photo of the bolt, which is absolutely straight unlike most lightning strikes which have a zigzag shape.

The journal Earthsky says the occurrence is very rare. “It was sheer luck to catch that bolt – surely a once-in-a-lifetime encounter. There were only three visible and audible strikes during that storm, many minutes apart,” said Lowenstein.

The strike is known as a positive cloud-ground (CG) strike. Apart from being much less common than normal negative lightning, positive lightning is very energetic with discharge currents exceeding 100,000 amperes (compared to less than 30,000 for negative strikes).