**Thunderstorm kills three, injures four in Imo communities - Nigeria**<https://thenationonlineng.net/thunderstorm-kills-three-injures-four-in-imo-communities/>

10 April 2025

By Chris Njoku, Owerri

Three people have been confirmed dead and four others critically injured following a thunderstorm that struck Obidi, Agwa, and parts of the Oguta Local Government Area in [Imo State](https://imostate.gov.ng/) on Tuesday evening.

The incident triggered widespread panic as residents fled in fear amid the sudden lightning strike, which many described as mysterious due to the absence of heavy rainfall. The storm, though accompanied by light rain, caused significant damage and sent shockwaves through the affected communities.

Eyewitnesses and locals have linked the tragic event to supernatural forces, citing a similar occurrence at the same spot years ago.

At that time, lightning reportedly struck a landmark known as the Zii tree, resulting in multiple deaths, with some victims said to have been buried alive beneath the fallen tree.

Nze Ike, a village elder, confirmed the latest incident, noting that four survivors are currently battling for their lives in the hospital due to the storm’s intensity.

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Community leaders have now called for both spiritual and practical safety measures to be implemented to prevent a recurrence of such tragedies.

“We are urging the government and relevant authorities to help us establish preventive measures—both spiritual and safety-based—to protect our people,” said a community leader who chose to remain anonymous.

“It was just a little rain in the community on Tuesday, but the impact of the thunderstorm hit three people, and they died instantly. As I speak with you, four people are still in the hospital.

“The thunder struck a heavy tree where people normally took shade and affected almost all the people underneath it taking shade.

“Our community was alleged to have killed the traditional ruler some time back. Some people are scared it may have been a sign of sacrilege because we have not seen anything like this before,” he alleged.

Nze said some parents have called their children to suspend any trip home till the ill wind blows away.

A community leader in Agwa, Collins Ughalla, described that incident as a big tragedy.

“We’re still mourning. The last time this occurred was in the 1980s. May the Lord rest their souls,” Ughalla said.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Henry Okoye, has yet to comment on the incident.