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Lightning kills Norton man, destroys property

By Definite Makainganwa

A PASSER-BY was struck and injured by lightning a few minutes after he sought refuge from a downpour in a house in Norton.

Ironically, seven family members who live in the house escaped unhurt at Kent Plot on Saturday evening.

The resultant fire destroyed 400 litres of diesel, maize seed, 20 litres of Altrazine, 12 kg of Cabarol, six bags of fertilizer, records and cattle tickets, a Philips radio, blankets and food. The lightning strike, which has left residents at the plot shell-shocked, occurred at around 5pm.

House owner Mr John Maganhu said yesterday that when the man asked for shelter, he let him in.

"As soon as we got inside a lightning bolt struck the house and the grass thatch caught fire," said Mr Maganhu.

"Everyone was thrown out of the hut when the bolt struck, leaving the stranger stuck on the wall."

Only the passer-by was seriously injured and was taken to Norton Hospital for treatment. According to police statistics, 15 people have been killed by lightning countrywide since the beginning of the year,

Up to 2 000 people are injured by lightning strikes the world over every year.

Between 25 and 33 percent of these are fatal.

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