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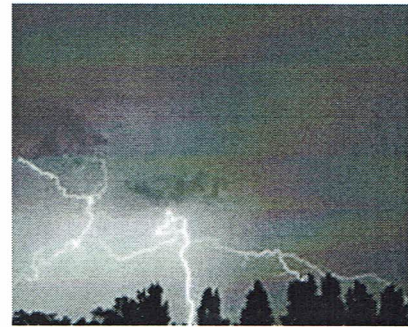
Three killed, 22 injured in Burundi lightning strike

by Staff Writers

Burundi (AFP) Nov 3, 2008

Three people were killed and 22 injured when lightning struck a church in southwest Burundi, local authorities said Monday.

"Yesterday morning, heavy rain and lightning poured down on Burambi town. A flash of lightning struck a Protestant church killing three people," the governor of Bururi province, Beatrice Havuginoti, told AFP.

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Seven of the 22 people injured in Sunday's dramatic lightning flash were seriously hurt.

Dozens of homes were also destroyed as well as schools in Burambi and the neighbouring village of Buyengero, Havuginoti added.

Torrential rain since the start of the central African country's rainy season in September had already claimed ten lives and destroyed hundreds of properties.

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