



Lightning Kills Two, Injures Three

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Harare

TWO people died in Goromonzi last week while three escaped with serious burns when lightning struck a hut in which they were sitting.

The injured were rushed to Parirenyatwa Hospital where their condition was reportedly stable.

Mashonaland East Provincial police spokesperson Inspector Austin Chikwavava, yesterday said Zaumba Banda (29) and Alpha Matipe (3) of Yafele Village, Chief Chikwaka in Goromonzi, died on the spot.

"These two (Banda and Matipe), together with three others were seated in a hut on November 15 this year when lightning struck. The hut caught fire resulting in the deaths of the two," Insp Chikwavava said.

Insp Chikwavava said some neighbours saw the hut on fire and rushed to investigate.

He said the neighbours managed to rescue Tsitsi Phillis, Brian Tariro and Memory Manhenga.

"These sustained some burns and were rushed to Parirenyatwa where their condition is reported to be stable," Insp Chikwavava said.

Insp Chikwavava said on the same day and at around the same time, a 60-year-old Hwedza woman escaped unhurt while all her property was burnt to ashes when lightning struck her homestead.

He said Ms Gertrude Mangarai of Mukondwa Village under Chief Svosve, was in the hut alone when lightning struck.

"She initially lost consciousness but recuperated on her own before rushing out of the house only to discover that the hut in which she was sitting, was already on fire," Insp Chikwavava said.

He said the fire later spread to other huts at the homestead resulting in property being burnt.

In Featherstone, 21 cattle at Jackalsdraai Farm were struck and killed by a bolt of lightning last Wednesday. The cattle were under a tree when the incident occurred.