**Rwanda turns to local production of lightning rods to curb lightning crisis - Rwanda**

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21 April 2025

Story by Charles Nyandwi

The Ministry in charge of Emergency Management is working on plans to locally produce lightning rods in a bid to increase their availability and affordability, as lightning continues to cause fatalities and injuries across the country.   
  
Between January 1, 2022, and April 10, 2025, a total of 590 lightning-related incidents were recorded in Rwanda, resulting in 215 deaths and 630 injuries.

Christine Hitimana Niyotwambaza, Director General of Surveillance and Preparedness at the ministry, told The New Times that many public spaces remain inadequately protected against lightning strikes.   
  
For instance, while higher learning institutions have achieved 80 percent coverage with lightning protection systems, primary and pre-primary schools stand at 46 percent.   
  
Secondary schools are protected at a rate of 43 percent, and nine-year basic education schools at just 34 percent.   
  
Health facilities are better protected, with 63 percent coverage. Currently, the cost of lightning rods varies depending on their protection capacity and manufacturer.   
  
A lightning rod (air terminal) with a protection radius of up to 100 meters typically costs between Rwf1 million and Rwf1.5 million.   
  
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