

Lightning kills man during storm

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Janice Keogh and Fanie van Rooyen, Beeld

Pretoria - The summer's first real highveld thunderstorm has claimed the life of a Midrand man.

Two men were hit by lightning in separate incidents in Midrand on Thursday afternoon.

The man who died sought shelter from the rain under a tree when he was struck by lightning.

The incident happened at about 16:45 where the man was handing out pamphlets.

Johannesburg emergency services spokesperson Percy Morokane said the man, who was in his twenties, was pronounced dead at the scene.

In the other incident, a man who is also in his 20s, was struck by lightning when he was busy loading goods onto a bakkie near the Allandale turnoff at about 17:00.

He was taken to the Carstenhof hospital in a serious but stable condition, said Chris Botha of Netcare 911.

The thunderstorm on Thursday afternoon moved over parts of Johannesburg, Pretoria and surrounding areas. In Sandton and Fourways, it rained heavily for about half an hour and in Auckland Park, it rained for several minutes. SA Weather Service forecaster Mark Todd said the thunderstorm developed early on Thursday afternoon between the Vaal River and Johannesburg and moved in a north-easterly direction. "The Mpumalanga highveld also got a bit of rain but it is still too early to say how much," said Todd.