**Lightning Strike Kills One, Injures Three in Kalehe Territory, South Kivu – DR Congo**

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By Jacques Kambeti Masumbuko

One person has been killed and three others seriously injured after a devastating lightning strike hit Ruhunde village in the Mbinga-Nord Group, Kalehe Territory, South Kivu Province, during a violent overnight storm between Saturday, July 19, and Sunday, July 20, 2025.

According to local reports, the lightning struck an area where several community members had taken shelter from the storm. The victims, all residents of Ruhunde, were caught off guard by the intensity of the weather. Witnesses report that some of the injured suffered severe burns and were rushed to a nearby health center for emergency treatment. Their condition is reported to remain critical.

The local population, still reeling from the tragic incident, has expressed concern over the lack of protection and preparedness in the area for such climatic hazards. Residents and community leaders have called for increased awareness and preventive measures, particularly in remote rural areas lacking resilient infrastructure.

Social actors in the Mbinga-Nord Group have conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and urged the community to stand in solidarity during this difficult time.

This fatal lightning strike underscores a growing concern in Kalehe Territory, a region increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather events. Experts and environmental advocates have linked the rise in such disasters to the accelerating effects of climate change and the ongoing deforestation of the region’s hillsides.

The incident has reignited calls for urgent action, including investment in early warning systems, community sensitization, and environmental protection initiatives to help mitigate the impacts of future storms.

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