

Lightning kills two in KZN [South Africa]

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By Noma Bolani

Two people have died after being struck by lightning during a storm in the Estcourt area.

Eight other people have been rushed to hospital with minor to serious injuries.

The Department of Cooperative Governance says the victims, who were members of the same family, had been sitting in one their homesteads after a traditional ceremony when the incident happened yesterday afternoon.

The Department's Vernon Mchunu says they will visit the residents later today.

He says teams are also being deployed across the province.

"At the moment our teams are visiting different municipalities to check if there are any damages, but at the moment we have no reports of any major incidents other than the heavy rains that have flooded roads. We are urging motorists to drive very carefully," he said.

"Our disaster management teams are on stand-by, we have issued a red alert because we believe these rains, according to the weather service, are going to continue throughout the day."