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Lightning kills father and son

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Bushbuckridge - A 78-year-old man and his two sons were struck by lightning on Monday.

The old man and one of his sons died.

The surviving son, Wilson Kubayi, 58, is being treated at Mapulaneng Hospital in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga.

Speaking from his hospital bed, Kubayi said he, his father, Joel, and brother, Elliot, had been sitting under a Marula tree at home in Rolle when a storm approached at about 15:00.

He said a dark cloud gathered over them and thunder started to clap.

He said his mother, Catherine, shouted at them to get into the house: "Run to the house, to the house, please!"

But it was too late. When they were just a few metres from the house, lightning struck, killing his father and brother.

His other brother, John, tried to perform First Aid on them.

"The lightning had burnt my father's hat and cellphone and shattered one of the windows. It also tore his right trouser leg from top to bottom," said Kubayi.

The family rushed the three men by bakkie to the Thulamahashe Health Centre, where it was confirmed the Joel and Elliot were dead.

The family is now making funeral arrangements.

Senior Superintendent Khazamula Baloyi said police had opened an inquest docket.

