

Lightning Kills Three In Eastern Cape

Monday, February 07, 2011

Disaster teams from the O.R Tambo district had to be dispatched to Qumbu and Libode in the Eastern Cape, where four people were killed by lightning at the weekend.

The national broadcaster says a man in his 50's was burnt beyond recognition after lightning struck while he was sitting with his 18-year-old daughter in a rondavel at Libode.

Three young people from Ngxakolo village in Qumbu were also struck and killed by lightning.

Disaster teams will assess the damage caused and the urgent needs of the bereaved families.

Disaster official, Phendule Mbewu says the number of deaths caused by lightning in the Transkei is worrying.

Mbewu says so far this year 21 people died as a result of lightning.

"It increases the number of child headed families but also increase the number of orphans in the region which is a worrying trend indeed and if possible we are prepared to allow anybody to assist us if there is a way to deal with this challenge of lightning in the region," Mbewu added.