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TODAY'S NEWS

Lightning strikes hut, woman killed

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By MALUNGEO BOOI

ONE woman was killed and 21 injured when lightning struck a thatched rondave village near Matatiele shortly after a funeral on Sunday, police said yesterday.

Captain Solomon Sontebu, of the Matatiele Police Station, said the woman, iden Ndzimande, 70, burnt to death and five other people were rushed to the local hospital in critical condition after suffering burns.

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Sontebu said the mourners had just return to the homestead from the graveyard incident occurred at about 3pm.

"Ndzimande died because she could not be rescued when the walls of the hut toppled over onto her.

"When police arrived ambulances were taking people to the hospital and the hut burnt down," Sontebu added, saying that Ndzimande had been burnt beyond rescue.

Police have opened an inquest docket.

Hillside village councillor Nkeletseng Tsoanya said the community was still reeling from the incident.

She said four victims suffered such serious burns that locals could not even recognize them.

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The four were transferred to a special hospital in Matatiele where they would receive treatment for the burns.

Since the start of the summer, the Transkei has been hit by a number of storms which have claimed lives and left people homeless.

Five children, aged between five and 13, died after lightning struck their hut during a thunderstorm at Enkalweni informal settlement near Ngcobo earlier this month.

Two of the children were from the same family.

Their mother was attending an umgidi (a ceremony to welcome home graduates) when lightning struck her house.

SERVICES

In Dutywa, hundreds of people were left homeless after a tornado.

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In Mount Frere a tornado left a R5 million trail of destruction, 20 people homeless.

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others injured.

At Tabase, not very far away from Mthatha, people were left homeless and their during a violent storm.

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