

LIGHTNING KILLS 6 IN KZN (South Africa)

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By **THE CITIZEN**

Three people died after being hit by lightning near Vryheid, KwaZulu-Natal on Saturday, paramedics said. Another three were killed in Colenso.

Two women, aged between 70 and 80, and a man, believed to be in his sixties, were confirmed dead at the scene, said Emergency Medical Services spokesman Robert McKenzie.

They were believed to have been in a house at the time.

Three other women sustained serious injuries when they were struck by the lightning.

“Paramedics stabilised them on the scene before transporting them to the local eDumbe Community Health Centre,” said McKenzie.

KZN MEC reacts, is shocked

KwaZulu-Natal co-operative affairs MEC Nomusa Dube-Ncube expressed shock over the three people who died on Saturday after being hit by lightning near Vryheid.

“We are deeply disturbed to learn of this incident,” the MEC’s spokesman Lennox Mabaso said in a statement,

“For us as government as well as for all those who have fallen victim to this catastrophe this is no way to start a new year.”

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“Paramedics stabilised them on the scene before transporting them to the local eDumbe Community Health Centre,” said McKenzie.

Mabaso said disaster management teams would be scattered around the province in cases of natural disasters.

Disaster strikes again

Three family members died after being hit by lightning near Colenso, KwaZulu-Natal on Saturday, paramedics said.

A 46-year-old mother, her nine-year-old daughter and her 10-year-old niece died when the lightning struck a house they were in, said Emergency Medical Services spokesman Robert McKenzie.

“The woman’s husband amazingly survived the incident,” he said.

This brings the total number of people killed by the lightning in the province to six, as three other people were also struck by lightning near Vryheid earlier on Saturday.

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