

Five children killed by lightning (Kenya)

<https://www.nation.co.ke/counties/kakamega/Children-Deaths-Lightning-Lumakanda-Kakamega/3444890-2832134-9q6xgcz/index.html>

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By **BENSON AMADALA**

Five children were struck dead by lightning at Lumakanda trading centre in Kakamega County on Thursday evening while sheltering under a tree during a heavy downpour.

The primary school pupils aged between 7 and 14 were playing football at the Lumakanda secondary school grounds when the rain started.

One of the children sustained serious injuries and has been admitted at the Lumakanda subcounty hospital. Nurses at the hospital described his condition as critical.

The children are reported to have been sheltering from a storm at about 5pm when they were struck by lightning.

CONFIRMED DEAD

Villagers living next to the school compound called police officers who rushed the children to the hospital.

The Kakamega County Police Commander Menegene Warui said five of the children were confirmed dead on arrival at the hospital.

The Police Chief said the fact that they were barefoot and standing under a tree could have increased chances of being struck by lightning.

A resident Mr Peter Ndanyi told the *Nation* heavy rain started at about 4.30pm accompanied.

“We heard a loud bang and followed screams as villagers rushed to the scene and found bodies of the victims thrown apart by the impact of the lightning strike,” said Mr Ndanyi.

Grief stricken villagers trooped to the hospital after learning of the incident and broke in wails when they were informed of the deaths.

Bodies of the children were transported to the Chebaywa mission hospital mortuary at Kipkarren for postmortem examination.