**Lightning strike claims life of 6-year-old - Eswatini**

 EDN Reporter

28 October 2024

By Thokozani Mazibuko

https://swazidailynews.com/2024/10/28/lightning-strike-claims-life-of-6-year-old/amp/

It is the summer season, and lightning has already claimed a life after it struck a 6-year-old child.

The incident occurred on the afternoon of October 26, 2024, and Senior Superintendent Phindile Vilakati, the Chief Police Information and Communication Officer confirmed the incident at Siphocosini.

The young victim was reportedly outside when an unexpected lightning storm swept across the area. Despite immediate efforts to transport the child to the nearest medical facility, she was pronounced dead upon arrival.

“This is a shocking incident,” said Superintendent Vilakati. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this incredibly difficult time.

Lightning strikes can be unpredictable and deadly, and we urge the community to take serious precautions during this season.”

As the country enters its peak lightning season, REPS is emphasizing the importance of safety measures to prevent further tragedies.

A person in a uniform speaking into a microphone

Description automatically generated

Police Information and Communication Officer, Phindile Vilakati

**If lightning occurs, read this and live**

Here are some essential tips to stay safe during thunderstorms:

* Stay Indoors: The safest place during a thunderstorm is indoors. If you hear thunder, seek shelter immediately and avoid open fields, hilltops, and water bodies.
* Avoid Electrical Appliances: Do not use wired electronic devices during a storm. Unplug appliances to prevent damage from power surges caused by lightning strikes.

**RELATED:**[**E15 000 salary for ‘Stiga’ at Botswana Police XI**](https://eswatinifinancialtimes.africa/e15-000-salary-for-stiga-at-botswana-police-xi/)

* Stay Away from Windows and Doors: High winds associated with storms can break windows. Keep away from glass and move to an interior room if possible.
* Do Not Take Shelter Under Trees: While seeking shelter from the rain under a tree may seem appealing, it can be extremely dangerous. Lightning often strikes the tallest point in an area.
* Listen to Weather Alerts: Stay informed by listening to local weather updates and alerts. Be aware of storm warnings in advance.
* Plan: If you know a storm is approaching, decide to stay indoors with your family and avoid unnecessary travel.
* Educate Children: Teach children about the dangers of lightning. Ensure they understand the importance of staying indoors during a storm and knowing how to react when thunder and lightning begin.