# 19-year-old girl struck dead by lightning at Buhleni - Eswatini <https://swazidailynews.com/2024/12/04/19-year-old-girl-struck-dead-by-lightning-at-buhleni/amp/> 4 December, 2024

EDN Reporter  
By Thokozani Mazibuko

In a heartbreaking incident that underscores the dangers of lightning strikes, a 19-year-old woman from Ntabinempisi was found dead on the roadside after reportedly being struck by lightning on the evening of December 2.

Senior Superintendent Phindile Vilakati, Chief Police Information and Communication Officer, confirmed the discovery of the young woman at approximately 1830hours.

As weather patterns become increasingly unpredictable due to climate change, the risks associated with thunderstorms and lightning have become more pronounced.

While storms can bring much-needed rain, they also pose significant threats to life and property.

Considering this tragic event, experts and authorities are urging citizens to understand the dangers of lightning and to take precautionary measures to safeguard themselves during inclement weather.

It should be noted that lightning is a powerful and unpredictable natural phenomenon, often occurring during thunderstorms.

Each year, numerous individuals are injured or killed by lightning strikes, making it crucial for communities to educate themselves on how to stay safe.

According to the National Weather Service, lightning can strike as far as 10 miles away from the area of rainfall.

Even on a seemingly clear day, individuals can be at risk if they are outdoors when a storm approaches. It is worth mentioning that the time from the first clap of thunder to rainfall can be just minutes, offering little opportunity to seek shelter once a storm begins.

Studies highlight that the safest place to be during a thunderstorm is indoors. Avoid open fields, hilltops, and wide-open spaces and that means if you are caught outside during a storm, find a sturdy building or a solid vehicle to take shelter in.

Avoid under trees, as they can attract lightning.

During a thunderstorm, they refrain from using wired electronics. Lightning can cause power surges, leading to electrical shock and damage.

“Stay informed about weather conditions. Check local forecasts and alerts to see if thunderstorms are expected in your area.

Stay clear of bodies of water, including pools, lakes, and rivers, as water is an excellent conductor of electricity.

Do not leave your shelter until at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder or flash of lightning,” Chief PICO advised members of public.

It is worth mentioning that considering this distressing incident, community leaders are calling for increased awareness about the dangers of thunderstorms, schools and local organizations are encouraged to hold informational sessions to educate families about lightning safety.

“The loss of a young life reminds us of the unpredictable nature of our weather. We must prioritize safety and educate ourselves on how to respond during thunderstorms,” stated Superintendent Vilakati.

For real-time weather updates and safety tips, the public is encouraged to follow local weather stations and visit official meteorological websites. Stay safe, everyone.