

# Thunderstorm kills three, injures four in Imo community



Thunderstorm has reportedly killed three persons and injured four others in Obidi, Agwa, Oguta Local Government Area of Imo State.

The incident, which occurred on Tuesday, caused pandemonium as people ran helter skelter.

The incident sent shockwaves through the community, with many residents attributing the thunderstorm to a mysterious or supernatural cause, given its unusual occurrence without heavy rainfall.

A similar tragedy occurred at the same spot several years ago, where a lightning hit the Zii tree, a well-known landmark in the community, resulting in multiple fatalities. Many people were reportedly buried alive under the tree.

Community leaders are calling for spiritual and safety measures to be put in place to prevent such incidents in the future.

"We are calling for spiritual and safety measures to be taken to prevent such incidents in the future," a community leader who pleaded anonymity, said.

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An elder, Nze Ike, confirmed the incident and stated that four people are fighting for their lives in the hospital due to the severe effects of the thunderstorm.

According to him, the thunderstorm was accompanied by a slight rainfall.

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“It was just a little rain in the community on Tuesday, but the impact of the thunderstorm hit three people, and they died instantly. As I speak with you, four people are still in the hospital.

“The thunder struck a heavy tree where people normally took shade and affected almost all the people underneath it taking shade.

“Our community was alleged to have killed the traditional ruler some time back. Some people are scared it may have been a sign of sacrilege because we have not seen anything like this before,” he alleged.

Nze said some parents had called their children to suspend any trip home till the ill wind blows away.

A community leader in Agwa, Collins Ughalla, described that incident as a tragedy.

“We’re still mourning. The last time this occurred was in the 1980s. May the Lord rest their souls,” Ughalla said.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Henry Okoye, has yet to comment on the incident.