Uganda has one of the highest rates of lightning strike deaths in the world and its capital Kampala has more days of lightning per year than any other city, according to the World Meteorological Organization.
A common sight
1. On Saturday, 25\textsuperscript{th} June 2011, lightning struck a group of mourners who were sitting under a tree and three died moments later. This was in Akura Sub County, Alebtong district. Eye witnesses said over 50 people were injured but 15 serious cases were taken to Lira Regional Referral Hospital, Alebtong Health Centre IV and Lira Medical Centre.

2. One person was killed in Amolatar district in a different incident on the same day, Saturday. Alfred Ibek was hit at 3pm while going to a landing site.

3. on Monday evening, 27\textsuperscript{th} June 2011, Lightning struck again injuring 13 people who were sheltering from rain at Omoro Sub County headquarters. The lightning struck a police communication antenna adjacent to the sub county offices and in the process 13 people sustained burns.
4. On the same day, Monday 27th June 2011, Six people in Yumbe District were similar victims while a cleric in Hoima is admitted to a private clinic partially paralysed after he was struck on Monday.

5. Tuesday, 28th June 2011 - Lightning struck a primary school in Uganda killing 20 pupils and injuring almost 100 more. This was Runyanya primary school in Kiryandongo district lies about 160 miles (some 260 kilometers) west of Uganda's capital Kampala.

6. Same day, Tuesday 28th June 2011, At Paidha Role Model Primary School, another school 200 miles (some 320 kilometers) northwest of Kampala, in Zombo district, lightning hit injuring 37 students and two teachers.

7. Uganda’s state-run daily New Vision says the latest spate has claimed more than 40 lives nationwide in a few weeks. Many cases go unreported.
8. Two primary school children and an old lady were killed in Jinja while three people were killed in Gulu by lightning this month – June 2011.

9. On September 26, lightning struck two classes and injured 53 pupils. They were rushed to Ogur Health Centre IV in Lira District where they were treated for burns.

10. On October 1, a pupil of Te Ogali Primary School in Inomo Sub-county, Apac District, was killed by lightning as she returned from fetching water. Vicky Akao, 13, was with her younger sister when she met her death.

11. On 12th October, two students were killed and 14 others injured after a lightning incident in Pakelle Comprehensive Secondary School in Adjumani district. A witness said: “After a loud thunder, I shortly heard students screaming. When I reached the scene, I saw students with injuries and blood spilled on the classroom floor.”

12. In September last year (2010), six pupils were killed in Apac and Alebtong districts. Two were from Oburu Primary School, Omoro sub-county in Alebtong while four were pupils of Te-lela Primary School in Apac.
The rate at which lightning has been striking has increased tremendously. “We are seeing now that there is greater climate variability,” says Charles Basalirwa, head of the meteorological unit at Kampala’s Makerere University.

“These events have suddenly become more and more pronounced.” “Are these sort of events going to become more common, or not?”

Economic losses are enormous but they have not been documented.
SOCIAL AND OTHER BELIEFS

• “It's not real lightning, man! The U.S. government has Intelligent Weather Technology! They can’t test it out on US soil so they use the Third World as Guinea Pigs!” – news.blogs.cnn.com
• Witchcraft
• Ancestral spirits or gods
“I don’t know which minister is in charge of the lightning, but let the government come with a statement to inform the country on what is going on and how we can manage it,” Rebecca Kadaga, Uganda’s speaker of parliament, told legislators.

Meteorology experts say school buildings are being hit because they don't have lightning conductors and are built on high ground.

“It is now that we have realized that many schools and health centers do not have these conductors,” Musa Ecweru, state minister for disaster preparedness said at the briefing. “There has been negligence on the part of those who certify if buildings are fit for public use.”
Uganda is divided into 111 districts and one city (the capital city of Kampala) across four administrative regions. Most districts are named after their main commercial and administrative towns.