

GLENMORE PARK

Lightning sets bed burning

FAMILY HAS LUCKY ESCAPE

Craig Vaughan

A GLENMORE Park family was lucky to escape when lightning struck their house and set a bed on fire during last week's severe storms.

Just after 5.30pm on November 5 lightning struck the television aerial of a home in Dara Crescent.

The resident, who did not wish to give his name, said his father-in-law and two sons aged under four were home at the time.

"There was a huge crack and all the power in our house and other houses in the street went out," he said.

"The bedroom began filling with smoke so my father in law got the boys outside and gave them to neighbours. He managed to put the fire in the mattress out with containers of water,

but the kids usually sleep in that bed with us so we were lucky it happened early."

When firefighters arrived they worked out lightning had struck the aerial and travelled down the co-axial cable into the house.

Electricity arced from the metal frame behind the gyp-rock and burnt a 25mm deep hole in the mattress.

Fire and Rescue NSW Station Officer Phil Marsh said he had never seen anything like it.

"It took us a while to work out exactly what happened.

"When we checked the roofspace we noticed the cable leading from the antenna was completely charred," he said.

"I have seen lightning strikes damage televisions inside, but this incident was truly a fluke."



Lightning strikes the region during Wednesday's storm.

Picture: KAREN JACK