

Anambra cable thief electrocuted while vandalising transformer

February 25, 2026 12:00 am



| By Ikenna Obianeri

A yet-to-be-identified man has died after being electrocuted while attempting to vandalise electricity equipment belonging to the FirstPower Electricity Distribution Company Limited at Ogechukwu Street, Awka, the Anambra State capital.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the suspected cable thief was operating at a transformer substation in the area and had finished cutting cables when a heavy explosion occurred, electrocuting him.

The incident reportedly occurred in the early hours of Tuesday, February 24, 2026, when the lifeless body was discovered at the substation, with personnel of the electricity company on-site assessing the situation.

In a press statement, the Head of Communications of FirstPower, Izunna Okafor, confirmed the incident and appealed to residents and community leaders to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities around electricity installations.

Okafor said the Anambra State Police Command had been contacted, and officers had evacuated the corpse and commenced further investigations.

The statement read in part:

*"FirstPower Electricity Distribution Company Limited confirms an unfortunate incident that occurred in the early hours of Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at Ogechukwu Street, Awka, involving the electrocution of a suspected vandal.

Related News

PHOTOS: Two midnight fires in Anambra destroy shops, buildings

Gunmen abduct six worshippers in Ondo church

SERHA commences free JAMB registration for 50,000 students

"Preliminary reports indicate that a heavy explosion occurred at a transformer substation, resulting from unlawful tampering with FirstPower's electricity network infrastructure by a suspected vandal dressed in security uniform.

"The individual was immediately electrocuted in the process. The Anambra State Police Command has been contacted, evacuated the body, and commenced investigations into the circumstances surrounding the incident."*

In reaction, the Managing Director of FirstPower, Okechukwu Okafor, strongly condemned acts of vandalism and energy theft, noting that such criminal activities not only disrupt electricity supply but also endanger lives.

He urged residents to report suspicious activity via FirstPower's WhatsApp line (08161652465), SMS, or to the nearest security agency, emphasising that protecting power infrastructure is a collective responsibility.

“Beyond the significant financial losses and service disruptions caused by such criminal activities, they also endanger the lives of perpetrators and innocent members of the public,” Okafor said.

“FirstPower remains committed to delivering safe, efficient, and improved electricity services to our customers. We will continue to work closely with security agencies and stakeholders to curb vandalism and ensure adequate protection of our network facilities.”