

Imo: Two Die In Mystery Explosion As Police Investigate Blast

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Tragedy struck in Owerri on Thursday night when two suspected scrap metal scavengers lost their lives following a mysterious explosion inside a large drainage channel along Old Nekede Road.

The incident, which occurred at about 9:15 p.m. on June 25, 2026, sent shockwaves through the neighbourhood as residents reported hearing a deafening blast emanating from the drainage system opposite Lakeside Hotel in Owerri West Local Government Area.

The two victims have been identified as Hyginus Akalonu, 32, from Umulumu in Ehime Mbano Local Government Area of Imo State, and Victor Egwu, 22, from Agba in Ishielu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

According to a statement issued by the Imo State Police Command, both men sustained severe burn injuries during the explosion and were rushed to the Federal University of Technology Teaching Hospital, Owerri, where they were confirmed dead while receiving treatment.

The Commissioner of Police, Imo State Command, CP Audu Garba Bosso, PSC(+), mnips, confirmed that the Command's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Unit has commenced a comprehensive investigation into the circumstances surrounding the blast.

According to him, Police operatives have since mobilised to the scene following the incident, cordoning off the area and deploying the EOD Unit to secure and sweep the location. According to the Police, the area has since been declared safe.

Preliminary investigations suggest the two deceased men were inside the drainage channel at the time of the explosion, apparently scavenging for scrap metal when the incident occurred. The EOD Unit is currently working to determine the cause and nature of the explosive materials involved.