

## Seven die in separate incidents in Rivers

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Two persons were burnt to death when fire gutted the Coca-Cola bottling plant located at Ogale-Nchia, Eleme local government area of Rivers state, just as a family of four lost their lives at the Enugu waterfront, Borokiri, Port Harcourt, after inhaling deadly fumes from their power generating set.

Daily Trust gathered that the fire occurred at Nchia-Ogale at about 10pm on Wednesday, from a shanty when a tea seller was trying to light his kerosene stove to prepare for the day.

Eye witnesses said that the tea seller had a jerry can of kerosene suspected to have been adulterated and in the process of lighting his stove, the reserve he had in his shanty caught fire.

The fire was said to have engulfed some petrol tankers that were off-loading petroleum products, forcing the tanker drivers to abandon their vehicles as they scampered to safety.

The raging fire thereafter spread to the near-by Coco-Cola bottling plant, razing it.

Fire service men from the state's fire service could not salvage the situation while the fire further spread to some shanties nearby, killing an old man and a four year-old girl whose name was given as Anita.

Some of the occupants of the shanties were also said to have sustained serious burns.

In a related development, a family of four perished from fumes emitted by their power generating set at Enugu water front in Borokiri, Port Harcourt.

Reports have it that a man, his two children and his girlfriend, died in the incident. Sources said prior to the incident, the man had sent his legitimate wife out of their home to pave way for him and his lover to spend the night together.

Unfortunately, however, while sleeping, the man left the power generating set on and in the process, the victims were suspected to have inhaled the deadly fumes emitted by the set which led to their death.

Eyewitnesses said the corpses of the victims were discovered the next morning following an alarm raised by the mother of the two children who returned home to meet the door to their home locked from inside.

Rivers state police spokesperson, Mrs Ireju Barasua, confirmed the two incidents but said she was yet to receive detailed reports.

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