

Many feared killed as police, oil vandals clash



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Many people were feared killed yesterday as police detectives engaged suspected pipeline vandals in a bloody shoot-out at Arepo, a border town between Lagos and Ogun States.

Residents said the shootout lasted for several hours and gunshots caused a huge fire outbreak from an NNPC pipeline in the area. It was the second within four days. Suspected vandals had earlier stormed the Owutu Police Station in Ikorodu where three policemen were shot dead. The vandals took away arms and ammunition from the station.

Sources said over 50 suspected vandals stormed both Arepo and Imagbon areas of Ogun State, installed taps on NNPC pipelines and connected them to their trucks hidden in nearby bushes.

"Several trucks loaded with petrol left the place since Friday. But policemen stormed the place, resulting in the exchange of gun fire", a source said.

Ibrahim Farinloye, NEMA spokesman in the South-west who confirmed the incident, said the fire outbreak had been put out by fire fighters from the NNPC.

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