

Many killed as pipeline explodes in Rivers community

Victor Edozie

Scores of persons were reportedly killed after a petrol pipeline exploded at Rumuekpe community in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Community sources told our reporter that the incident which occurred on Thursday was as a result of oil bunkering activities.

One of the sources said youths of the community were fond of siphoning petroleum

products from many pipelines located on the stretch of the adjoining villages within the community.

A resident of the community, Mr Chikwem Godwin, told our reporter that the area was notorious for oil bunkering.

He said the incident occurred when those involved in the criminal activities attempted to cut one of the petroleum pipelines.

"I can confirm to you that more than 20 persons died in that very incident," he said.

Another resident of Rumuekpe who simply gave his name as Amadi said he saw five corpses burnt beyond recognition.

When contacted, Rivers State Police Command Public Relation Officer, SP Nnmadi Omoni confirmed the story but said he is yet to ascertain the number of deaths.

He said a detachment from the State Police Command had been deployed to the area to ensure there is no breakdown of law and order.