

16 feared dead in Rivers fuel dump explosion

From Ann Godwin, Port Harcourt

SIXTEEN persons were feared dead last night following an explosion that

WEATHER REPORT

Sunny atmosphere with patches of clouds is expected over the Northern region with chances of morning thunderstorms in parts of Adamawa, Sokoto, Kebbi and Taraba. Later in the day, thunderstorms are expected over parts of Katsina, Kaduna, Borno, Taraba and Adamawa. Cloudy morning is anticipated for the North central region with prospects of thunderstorms in parts of Nasarawa and Kogi. Later in the afternoon/evening, thunderstorms expected in parts of Plateau, Niger, Federal Capital Territory, Kwara and Kogi. Cloudy atmosphere is expected over the Inland states of the South and Coastal areas with chances of thunderstorms over Imo, Enugu, Ebonyi, Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa and Lagos in the morning. In the afternoon/evening, thunderstorms are anticipated over the entire states.

Potential impact

(i) For some states, the

occurred near a jetty in Okirika Local Government Area of Rivers State.

It was gathered that a pipe used in loading fuel at a Port Harcourt Refining depot spilled on July 31, unknown to the workers that the hose pulled out of the badge forcing the petrol to pour on the ground.

Consequently, some residents on witnessing the spill, started scooping the product and storing it in different locations.

A source said, two fishermen later went to fish near the jetty. One of them held a lantern unknown to him that there was petrol hidden nearby and sadly, an explosion occurred.

The source disclosed that some powerful persons made frantic efforts to cover up the incident.

When contacted, Okrika Council Chairman, Akuros Robin, confirmed the incident but said only four persons died.