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## Flood kills four, destroys 50 houses in Edo

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*Bureau Chief Benin*

**Four** persons reportedly lost their lives with over 50 houses and properties worth millions of Naira destroyed, including parts of the fence of the Akoko-Edo Local Government Area secretariat with headquarters in Igarra, on Sunday, following serious flooding caused by torrential rain.

Two of the victims, according to eyewitnesses, a young girl and a pastor, were travelling to Igarra from Auchi in a commercial vehicle alongside other passengers when their vehicle broke down in Egbigere, about five minutes' drive from their destination. They were swept off the road by the flood occasioned by the rain while pushing the vehicle.

Their corpses were however discovered on Monday morning.

Another victim, a middle aged man in Utua area of the community was said to have visited a friend when a building collapsed on him as well as an undergraduate who was returning to the town from his station during

the rain said to have started at about 11am.

His body was also recovered in the debris, in the early hours of Monday.

When contacted, traditional ruler of the community, Oba Adeche Saiki, Otaru of Igarra, who spoke through the Secretary, Otaru-in-Council, Elder Folorunsho Dania, said the community is devastated by the incidence, calling on relevant government agencies and good spirited individuals and organisations to come to the aide of the victims to restart their lives.

“We are shocked at the level of damage. Many houses have collapsed and some totally un-habitable as their structures have failed. We lost four persons one of them an undergraduate who was coming home from school.

“As we speak, the Otaru is in a meeting deliberating on the matter but we want the urgent assistance of both the local and state governments because very many people are homeless now. For the dead, some of them have been buried today, the families need the support to continue their lives.

“The Otaru is appealing passionately to both the local government, state government and the federal government through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to come to our aide,” he added.

Also, the senator representing the area in the Senate, Domingo Obende said on Monday that he has already sent his personal staff to commiserate with the people and take stock of the damage to enable him take necessary action.

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