

# Six Die In Lagos Gas Explosions, Fire Razes 36 Houses, 46 Silos In Jigawa

By **Emmanuel Udom** - January 16, 2018



**Lagos** – Two persons were burnt to death and eight others suffered severe burns in an early morning gas explosion at Magodo, a Lagos suburb, on Monday.

The incident happened at a gas station owned by Second Coming Gas Company, located along CMD Road, Magodo, Lagos.

Similarly, an explosion by leaking gas cylinder at artisan's shop in Ajara area of Badagry, Lagos suburb, on Monday killed four persons and left several others with severe burns.



*Firemen putting out a fire at the gas plant*

It took about three hours for the Magodo fire to be brought under control by firemen from the Federal and Lagos State Fire Services, as well as officials of the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA).

Three gas reservoir tanks, a 33,000-litre gas truck, the administrative block of Second Coming Gas Company, an electricity generating set, gas cylinders and other equipment were burnt.

Adesina Tihamiyu, General Manager, LASEMA, told newsmen that his officials and firefighters were notified as soon as the incident occurred about 6.45a.m.

“Although eye-witness posited that the fire outbreak could have been as a result of gas leakage from the gas plant triggered by ignition of fire, preliminary investigation by the agency revealed that three reservoir tanks for storage of gas and one 33, 000-litre gas truck in the gas station were engulfed in fire with secondary explosion within the station.”

Adesina confirmed that two burnt bodies were recovered by emergency officials at the station.

Eight casualties were also recorded with various degrees of injuries and burns, and were being attended to by the officials of the Lagos State Ambulance Service, before they were moved to the Trauma Centre, Toll Gate, for further medical attention.

The entire area was cordoned off by the police before the visit of Edgal Imohimi, the Lagos State Police Commissioner, who further confirmed, through the spokesman, Godwin Oti, that two people died in the fire outbreak.

Razak Fadipe, Director, Lagos State Fire Service, said four fire trucks were used to tame the rampaging fire which spread to some buildings in the area.

Officials of the Rapid Response Squad, Federal Road Safety Corps, National Emergency Management Agency, Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps, The Nigerian Red Cross Society, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Lagos State Traffic Management Authority were on the ground to curtail the incident.

Rolake Sijuade, a resident of Magodo, said Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company switched off power suddenly to the entire area as soon as the incident occurred.

#### Gas Explosion Claims Four Lives In Badagry

An explosion by leaking gas cylinder at artisan's shop in Ajara area of Badagry, Lagos suburb, on Monday killed four persons and left several others with severe burns.

At the scene of the incident at Ajara Vetho, dead bodies of two men and a woman were seen.

Six buildings located near the workshop and six gas cylinders were destroyed by the explosion which occurred at about 9.50a.m.

Officials of the Federal Fire Service, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), police and other security agencies were on ground to control the situation.

An official of the fire service, Tunde Adeboye, said that they were able to put out the fire quickly, and it helped in reducing the damage.

A senior police officer at the scene, who pleaded anonymity, said that four persons died in the explosion.

An eyewitness, Segun Adebunmi, said that the explosion was caused by a leaking gas cylinder at the artisan's shop.

"It's a testimony that I'm alive as I escaped the scene by a whisker," he said.

Another eyewitness, Tope Alabi, said that the explosion destroyed cars that were parked on the street.

"I heard a loud bang and the glasses of cars were shattering and the next thing I saw was human parts littered all over the place.

"The security agencies responded promptly; so the situation was contained; so it didn't escalate," he said.

A senior official at the General Hospital, Badagry, who pleaded anonymity, later confirmed that four dead bodies had been deposited at the mortuary.

The official also said that several people were in critical conditions, with severe burns.

#### Fire Razes 36 Houses, 46 Silos, Kills 40 Goats, Sheep In Jigawa

In another development, an early morning fire on Monday destroyed 36 houses, 46 silos and killed 40 goats and sheep in Abanderi village of Dutse Local Government Area, Jigawa, the police confirmed.

DSP Abdu Jinjiri, the spokesman for the Police Command in Jigawa, confirmed the incident to newsmen in Dutse.

Jinjiri said the fire, which started at about 5a.m was suspected to have been caused by bush burning.

"Today, at about 5a.m, there was fire incident at Abanderi village of Dutse Local Government Area, and the inferno was suspected to have been caused by bush burning.

"So, as a result, 36 houses, 46 houses, local containing assorted grains and over 40 goats and sheep were burnt to ashes," Jinjiri said.

He said that no one died in the incident but that investigation into the incident had commenced.

“Fortunately, no loss of human life was recorded in the incident and the case is under investigation, and normalcy has been restored in the area,” Jinjiri said.

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### **Emmanuel Udom**

Emmanuel Udom, a Senior Correspondent with Independent Newspapers Limited, Publishers of INDEPENDENT newspaper, has worked for more than two decades as a journalist in Nigeria and abroad.

He is presently on the METRO desk, overseeing articles relating to crime, court and city.

Udom, popularly known as an undercover or tracker, is a very private person.