

# Two killed in Rivers Coca-Cola plant fire

**A** FIRE that occurred at Ogale-Nchia, Eleme Local Government Area of Rivers State has claimed two lives and razed the Coca-Cola Bottling plant in the town. A family of four were killed in another fire at Enugu waterfront, Borokiri, Port Harcourt, the state capital.

*The Nation* gathered that the Nchia-Ogale fire started at about 10p.m on Wednesday from a shanty when a tea seller was trying to light a kerosene stove.

It was said that the

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Mallam had a jerry can of kerosene suspected to have been adulterated with inflammable products. In lighting his stove, the reserve he had in his shanty caught fire.

The fire spread to some tanker vehicles trying to replace the petroleum products they loaded from Port Harcourt Refinery Company (PHRC) with some condensate.

As the fire started raging, the tanker vehicle drivers who were there found

themselves in a helpless situation. They could not move their vehicles as they ran for dear lives.

The fire spread to the nearby Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, burning it to ashes.

Fire Service men failed to subdue the raging inferno, which spread to some shanties, killing an old man and a four-year old girl whose name was given as Anita. Some of the occupants of the shanties were also said to have sustained burns.

A fire had occurred at Trailer park in the area sometime last year when

many shanties got burnt as a result of hoarding of petroleum products in one of the shanties.

One person reportedly died then. Many of the residents were away at Sunday service when the fire started.

Eleme is believed to be "highly inflammable" because of the illegal fuel businesses that go on in the area that is the home of the Port Harcourt Refinery.

A family of four were said to have died from the fume emitted by their power generator at Enugu waterfront

in Borokiri, Port Harcourt.

It was said that the man of the family whose wife was away, had with him a friend and his two children.

While sleeping, they left the generator set on and locked up the house. There was power outage.

By morning, they could not wake up as it was suspected that they had inhaled a lot of fume which killed them. Eyewitnesses said that the wife raised the alarm that attracted neighbours.

The Police spokesperson, Mrs Ireju Barasua, confirmed the two incidents.