Octogenarian burnt to death

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An 80-year-old man was yesterday burnt to death in Ikorodu, Lagos.

The incident occurred at 24, Olabode Are Avenue, Church Bus Stop, Okeriya, Ikorodu, around 5.11am.

Fire also gutted Alaba International Market in Ojo Local Government Area of the state.

The octogenarian was said to be sleeping when the fire started. When he woke up, it was gathered, he could not escape because the house was smoke filled.

Twelve fires disasters were recorded in the city on Wednesday.

The Nation learnt that officials of Lagos State Fire service, Ikorodu Station responded fast.

Eyewitnesses said the fire fighters' efforts prevented the fire from spreading.

Goods worth millions of naira were lost to the fire that gutted a section of Alaba market.

It was learnt that the fire started around 6am following an electrical spark from a snacks and soft drinks shop.

Occupants of the shops were said to have travelled for the Yuletide.

A trader, Jamiu Alabi, blamed the fire on electrical surge.

"For few days now, there had been blackout in the market. But the Ikeja Distribution Company decided to switch on the light earlier today. Few minutes after the power came on, there was a spark and the place went up in flames," he said

Confirming the incidents, Lagos State Fire Service Director Rasak Fadipe lamented the octogenarian's death, saying: "It is pathetic that we recovered an 80-year-old male from the building.

He said because of his men's swift response, only nine Kee Klamps were razed at Alaba.

He said: "We received the fire call at 6:11 am and two fire trucks from our Ojo Station were deployed to the scene to combat the fire. In fact, when we arrived, we met the fire well alight. But our response time and intelligence helped prevent the fire from spreading to other shops in the market."