

# Gas explosion kills four-month-old, four others in Delta

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Five persons yesterday died in an explosion which rocked a gas shop near Okwe Market, Oshimili South Local Government Area of Delta State.

The inferno also razed three shops.

The victims include a four-month-old baby; a three-year-old child and their mother simply identified as Ada.

Two teenagers who had gone to purchase biscuits from a provision shop near the gas shop were also killed.

*The Nation* gathered that the incident, which occurred at about 1.30 p.m caused pandemonium in the community.

A witness told *The Nation* that the fire started from the gas shop after a cylinder spilled its content into the air, causing two smaller cylinders to fly into neighbouring buildings.

The source said further that a stove used by Ada to prepare meal for her children triggered the fire, when its smoke came in contact with the gas spewed into the air.

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The source said: “The fire started at about 1:30pm in the afternoon at Okwe market. A large gas cylinder crashed on the floor with a loud noise causing two cylinders to fly into nearby shops and buildings.

“But the explosion occurred when Ada, who came with her four-month-old baby and her little son to stay with her friend, Jennifer, the owner of the shop, who had gone to Onitsha to purchase goods for her provision shop was cooking on a store”.

The eyewitness said the fire spread to neighbouring shops causing widespread panic.

He added that Ada died from burns after she tried to rescue her children, who were sleeping in a corner of the shop.

“The fire had spread rapidly by the time the mother of two realized that her children were inside. She tried fruitlessly to rescue her children. Two other children who came to the shop to make a purchase were also burnt in the inferno”.