

Two die, houses razed in Rivers tanker fire

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By Mike Odiegwu, Port Harcourt

Two persons were on Tuesday burnt to death as two petrol tankers exploded and burst into flames in Rivers State.

The explosions happened at a checkpoint on Elele-Owerri Road in Omurelu, Ikwere council of the state.

The inferno that resulted from the blasts was said to have spread in the community, destroying houses and other properties.

Some residents were severely injured.

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An indigene of the community, Innocent Amadi, said the incident happened when one of the tankers conveying petrol was flagged down by a petroleum task force in the area.

He said while the task force was allegedly trying to extort the tanker driver, another tanker at top speed lost control and hit the stationary one at the checkpoint.

He said the two tankers fell, spilled their contents and burst into flames.

“Angry youths from the community went on rampage, destroying other checkpoints in the community. They were angry with the activities of the task force. We are calling on the state government to intervene to save our people,” he said.

Police spokesman Nnamdi Omoni confirmed the development but said he was unsure of the casualty figure.