

# Two dead as PMS-laden vehicle bursts into flames in Rivers

Onyema Godwin  
| Port Harcourt

**T**WO persons were burnt to death on Wednesday following a fire outbreak which occurred when a vehicle conveying gallons of Premium Motor Spirit, also known as petrol, burst into flames after colliding with another vehicle in Rivers State.

A policeman accompanying the vehicle conveying the petroleum product sustained high degree of burns and is reported to be in critical

condition at an undisclosed hospital.

It was gathered that the vehicle was travelling from Port Harcourt to Ahoada in Ahoada East Local Government Area of the state when it collided with an oncoming vehicle, which then resulted in the fire.

Occupants of the other vehicle were burnt beyond recognition, while the policeman, who was accompanying the fuel-laden vehicle, sustained high degree of burns.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, Nnamdi Omoni, confirmed

the incident.

Omoni, however, said he was yet to get fuller details of the incident.

Meanwhile, Okrika people in Rivers State have begun moves to end the activities of bunkerers of illegally refined crude oil, popularly called Kpo-fire, in waterfront communities in Port Harcourt.

Okrika waterfront communities, due to their proximity to Port Harcourt, have become major trade route for illegal refined petroleum products, especially diesel and petrol.

In an interview with one of those behind the move, a former Waterfront community chairman, Sam Ateke, said the move was aimed at preventing fire outbreak in the communities.

He said: "Kpo-fire business has been identified as a potential threat to the existence of waterfront dwellers and this must not continue in our communities.

"We will do all we can to free our waterfront communities from 'Kpo-fire' activities because we don't want to experience fire outbreaks again."