

Three die as fire guts NBC plant

Festus Abu, Benin

THREE people have been reported killed in a fire outbreak at the Nigeian Bottling Company plant in Eyean, near Benin, Edo State.

An unspecified number of people were also injured in the incident which caused an extensive damage to the plant.

Sources said the bodies of the dead were deposited at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital morgue.

Police told our reporter that the plant exploded at about 1pm on Tuesday when some

welders were carrying repairs on a damaged part of the plant.

He said that two of the workers were burnt while one died from suffocation.

It was learnt that the damage to the plant would not have been extensive if passersby and villagers, who rushed to the place, had gained access to the complex.

A member of staff of the NBC, who pleaded anonymity, said the plant would have been completely razed down if the fire had affected the laboratory where there were combustible materials.

The NBC Head of

External Affairs, Ms. Adeyanju Olomola, who confirmed the incident, said the company was saddened by the development.

While conveying the condolence of the firm to the deceased families, Olomola said they had been contacted.

She assured that the NBC would give the families of the victims necessary support, adding that the injured would be taken care of.

Olomola said operations in the multi-million naira plant had been suspended to give room for investigations into the incident.