Inspector, village head, others die in fire

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Scene of a fire incident

3468

Enyioha Opara, Minna

A police inspector, the village head of Jatau community and two others have been killed in the Jatau area of Maitumbi, Minna, Niger State.

It was gathered that the inspector, Abu Gani, and the village head, identified simply as Mai-Angwa, and the unidentified two others died after sparks from high-tension wires, caused fire that affected two houses in the area.

It was leant that the incident, which occurred on Sunday at about 3.48am threw the community into confusion.

Our correspondent gathered that the high-tension wires passed over the roof of some houses in the community.

Residents said there were sparks from the wires immediately power was restored to the community.

It was said the sparks caused fire, which razed down two of the houses under the high-tension wires.

An eyewitness told our correspondent that when the houses were engulfed in flames, some residents raised the alarm, adding that the police were the first at the scene.

He added that Gani, who led the police team, tried to rescue some people who were trapped in the buildings.

He said the policeman died as he tried to bring some victims out of a burning building.

The witness, who pleaded not to be named, said, "The incident occurred around 3.48am after sparks from high-tension wires that passed over the houses.

"Some residents raised the alarm and sent distress calls to the police and emergency agencies in the state.

"The police were the first at the scene of the fire and immediately tried to save some people trapped in the fire.

"The police team was lead by Inspector Abu Gani, attached to the Maitumbi Police Division. They went straight into the affected building to save trapped persons. Gani was caught up in the inferno."

PUNCH Metro gathered that the village head, Mai-Angwa, and one of his sons were trapped and died in the fire.

It was also learnt that a friend of the chief's son who attempted to save him, and also became trapped in the fire.

The Niger State Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Bala Elkana, confirmed the incident, adding that three persons were killed, including a police inspector, while two houses got burnt from sparks from

high-tension wires.

Elkana said, "The corpses were deposited at the Minna General Hospital morgue. Investigation into the cause of the incident is ongoing."

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