

# Bayelsa pipeline explosion kills three oil workers

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***Simon Utebor, Yenagoa***

Three oil workers have reportedly lost their lives in a pipeline explosion in Bayelsa State.

The victims, said to be employees of an oil servicing firm, reportedly died on Sunday.

The pipeline explosion, it was learnt, occurred in Olugboboro community of Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of the state.

The pipeline is owned by the Nigerian Agip Oil Company.

The deceased, it was further learnt, were carrying out repair work on a leaking crude oil pipeline when the tragedy struck.

The explosion, which occurred on Easter Sunday, according to community sources, also left several persons injured.

The National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency on Tuesday confirmed the pipeline blast.

The Director-General, NOSDRA, Dr. Peter Idabor, who confirmed the development in a telephone chat with our correspondent, said that an employee of the agency survived the explosion.

Idabor said that the survivor had allegedly drawn the attention of the oil workers to the breach of safety procedure and left the scene shortly before the incident occurred.

He said, "I received a report of the incident from our employee in Yenagoa office, and luckily, one of our officers on the team survived.

"Because of the safety conditions of the place after inspection, our employee left the place and he was not affected.

"I am going to report the matter officially to the Minister of Environment today (Tuesday)."

It will be recalled that a July 9, 2015 explosion at Agip's oil field in Azuzuama, Southern Ijaw, left 14 persons dead.

A regulatory official of the Bayelsa State Ministry of Environment and NOSDRA and 12 maintenance crew members were among the victims.

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