

66-year-old woman dies in Anambra fire

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File copy: Fire

Tony Okafor

A 66-year-old woman, Veronica Okwuogu, lost her life to a fire outbreak on Saturday in Awka, Anambra State.

The cause of the fire couldn't be ascertained as of the time of filing this report.

But an eyewitness told our correspondent that the deceased was trapped in a building during the incident which occurred about 10.30am on Saturday.

The eyewitness said, "Officials of the state fire service were nowhere to be found during the incident. Before help could come for the old woman, she had been burnt beyond recognition."

The spokesperson for the police in the state, Haruna Mohammed, confirmed the incident.

Mohammed said, "At about 10.30am, there was a fire outbreak at a residential quarters behind Macdons, Amuda village, Awka, in Awka South LGA of Anambra State.

“Police patrol team attached to the Central Police Station, Awka, visited the scene and cordoned off the area to prevent criminals from taking advantage of the situation to loot. The fire was put out by local volunteers in the area.

“However, one Mrs Veronica Okwuogu, aged 66, was trapped in the inferno. She sustained varying degrees of burns. She was rushed to Regina Celi Hospital for treatment but was certified dead on arrival by a medical doctor.

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“Her corpse was deposited at the morgue of the hospital for an autopsy. The cause of the fire is yet unknown and investigation is ongoing to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the incident.”

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