

Trader slumps as fire guts Anambra market

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A trader on Saturday slumped and was rushed to hospital after watching his shop destroyed by fire that gutted the Old Automobiles Spare Parts Market in Awada, Anambra State.

The trader whose identity could not be ascertained as of press time reportedly shouted “I’m finished” and collapsed.

“Bystanders rushed him to the hospital. We don’t know his state of health as of now,” an eyewitness and trader told the *News Agency of Nigeria*.

“The incident occurred around 1.30am on Saturday when all of us got a text message that the market was on fire and rushed to the place,” the trader added.

Our correspondent gathered that property worth millions of naira was destroyed by the inferno whose cause had yet to be ascertained.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Haruna Mohammed, confirmed the incident to our correspondent.

He said firefighters responded swiftly and that no life was lost in the incident.

He said, “Around 1.30am, there was a fire outbreak at old Automobiles Spare Parts Market, Awada.

“Following the distress call, police patrol team led by the DPO, Awada Division, Tony Adeyi, rushed to the scene and alerted the fire service department and other emergency units which also responded promptly and put out the fire.

“The area was cordoned off by the police to prevent hoodlums from taking advantage of the situation to loot. One person whose identity is yet unknown collapsed and was taken to the hospital for medical attention. Cause of the fire and value of property destroyed are yet to be ascertained.”

The PPRO said the Commissioner of Police in the state, John Abang, sympathised with the affected traders and ordered a discreet investigation to ascertain circumstances surrounding the incident.

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