

# One dies in Rivers kerosene explosion

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Web Photo: Cooking stove

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A kerosene explosion in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State has killed one person and injured another.

The explosion was said to have occurred when a tenant, simply identified as Ikechukwu, an auto mechanic, poured kerosene into a stove, which he had set alight.

An eyewitness told our correspondent that the deafening sound of the bang drew the attention of neighbours, who helped in putting out a raging inferno that had already gutted Okechukwu's entire apartment.

It was learnt that the incident, which happened at about 8pm on Thursday on Ovunda Street, off Ikwerre Road, caused serious injuries to the two occupants of the house.

The eyewitness, who identified himself as Etim, said, “The stove was already on when he (Okechukwu) noticed that he needed to add kerosene to cook noodles.

“A lady inside his room didn’t sustain a serious injury like Okechukwu. Both of them were rescued and rushed to the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital at about 8.45pm on Wednesday.”

Speaking with our correspondent, Ikechukwu’s landlord, Stanley Wike, said, “Ikechukwu locked the door while he was inside. You can see the noodles they were cooking before the incident happened.

“The fire affected him so much because he was struggling to open the door. There was a lady inside the room. People around had to break the window protector to rescue the lady.”