

Rivers community panics as three die from illegal refinery fumes

Dennis Naku, Port Harcourt

THREE persons slumped on Monday after inhaling gas fumes from an illegal oil refining dump in Oduoha community in the Emuoha Local Government Area of Rivers State.

A community leader, who narrated the incident on Nigeria Info News, 92.3, Port Harcourt on Tuesday, said the victims, a man and two women had gone the site to buy fuel when they suddenly suffered from the gas emissions from the illegal oil bunkering popularly known as 'kpofire.'

Youths Chairman of Oduoha community, Friday Wekere said the victims were between ages 26 and 35.

"As they inhaled the gas, they could not move again and the three of them fell.

"The eyewitness that wanted to rescue them almost suffered the same thing, but he ran back and raised the alarm.

"So, people now mobilized and brought the three persons out around 10 to 11pm last night (Monday)," he stated.

The father of one of the dead victims, called on the Rivers State Government to come to their aide and end the illegal refining activities in the area.

When contacted, spokesman of the state police command, Nnamdi Omoni, said he was not aware of the incident.