

Power surge electrocutes Benue nurse, student

John Charles, Makurdi

TWO people were killed and three others injured in the Wadata area of Makurdi, Benue State, on Thursday, following a power surge.

An eyewitness, who spoke to journalists, said a nurse working in a private hospital in Makurdi, and a Junior Secondary School student were electrocuted while disconnecting their appliances from the power source when they discovered the high voltage.

A resident, who identified himself simply as Mike, said people in the area experienced a sudden power surge.

"As soon as we noticed the high voltage, many people rushed to disconnect their appliances from the power socket. But in the process, people were electrocuted.

"A neighbour here who is a nurse was using an electric cooker when we experienced the high voltage. But as she quickly went to disconnect it from the power source in the house, she

got electrocuted. The same thing happened to a young student," he added.

Mike noted that three others were also affected but were rushed to an undisclosed hospital.

The Regional Manager of the Jos Electricity Distribution Company, Felix Adamu, said the community had reported the incident.

"Some people from the community have come here to report the case, but we have not gone there to find out the root cause.

"All they told is what you have, but because the people are restive and there is serious tension in the community, they advised that we should not go there today.

"I know there was electrocution, but I cannot comment on the cause until I go there to inspect it tomorrow (Friday) and I have asked the community to take inventory and we are still waiting for them," Adamu said.

The state police command spokesperson, Catherine Anene, confirmed the incident, but said she had yet to get the details.