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## Petrol fire kills 7 in Rivers

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BY CHRIS ANUCHA&TONY JOHN, PORT HARCOURT ON MAY 19, 2014 ·

COVER



**Seven persons and scores of others were seriously injured yesterday in a petrol fire at the NNPC jetty in Okrika, Rivers State.**

A source said the explosion which occurred at about 6am, was caused by illegal siphoning of petrol from the NNPC pipeline.

When Daily Sun got to the scene of the tragedy, soldiers on guard at the jetty's gate did not allow people to get close, the fire still raged, but some ships were not affected.

The police command confirmed the incident, but could not give the casualty figure.

Chairman of Okrika Local Government, Tamuno Williams, confirmed the explosion to our correspondent during an inspection of the area where the incident occurred.

He said the explosion happened in the early hours of yesterday in a creek close to the jetty as a result of illegal siphoning of petrol from the NNPC pipeline.

Williams said the number of casualties could not be properly ascertained for now, due to the nature of the terrain where the incident happened and the level of security within and around the jetty.

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