

Woman Electrocuted, Daughter Burnt As Fire Guts Four Houses

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A middle-aged woman was electrocuted yesterday while her daughter was badly burnt following a power surge which caused fire that razed four buildings at Oke-Ira in Ojodu Local Council Development Area of Lagos.

The tragedy occurred at Shokoya Close, off Dapson Street, Oke Ira about 8:29a.m. For hours, there was confusion in the neighbourhood as residents scampered to safety while others ran to the power company to

disconnect the power supply to the area.

It was learnt that the fire emanated from a 25kva transformer serving the four buildings located on number 4, 7, 9a and 9b. The four houses were affected by the inferno. The electrical cables and electronic appliances in the houses were burnt.

Before the emergency agencies arrived the area, the woman identified as Mrs. Florence Okanlawon had been electrocuted while attempting to switch off her refrigerator. Her daughter, Taiwo Okanlawon, was also affected by the fire.

The mother and daughter were rushed to the General Hospital, Ifako. Okanlawon, it was learnt, later died as a result of severe burns she sustained. Her

daughter, however, is said to be responding to treatment.

The General Manager, Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), Mr. Adesina Tiamiyu, described the incident as pathetic. Tiamiyu said such incident could have been avoided through adequate precautionary measures.

He said: “The agency received a distress call on fire incident from a transformer at Shokoya Close, off Dapson Street, Oke-Ira, Ojodu LCDA through the 767/112 emergency toll-free line. “Through the preliminary report gathered by the agency’s Emergency Response Team (ERT) at the scene of the incident, it was discovered that the fire emanated from a high voltage 25kva transformer (a fourbuilding mini-transformer) which affected four buildings.”

Tiamiyu said the agency immediately contacted the Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company at Oke-Ira to immediately disconnect power supply to the affected houses. The LASEMA boss, however, advised Lagos residents to ensure that electrical appliances are disconnected while not in use. Agencies at the scene included the Lagos State Fire Service and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC).