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Nigeria: Kerosene Explosion Kills 11 in Edo, Delta

BY ADIBE EMENYONU, 15 MARCH 2012

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Once again, the regional malaise in which kerosene explosion sent many to their graves, occurred in Edo and Delta States, where about 11 persons were killed, with 11 others in various state of critical conditions at the Accident and Emergency ward of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH) Benin-City, for burns which sustained as a result of the explosions.

It is not clear why year-in-year-out, the number of cases of kerosene explosion in Edo state has continue to rise, and this has stretched for a period of almost ten years.

Also, five people had been confirmed dead in a motor accident which occurred along the Benin-Auchi road on Tuesday just as several other passengers who were said to have sustained varying degrees of injuries had been rushed to different hospitals, with some of them receiving medical care at the Edo state-owned Central Hospital, Sapele Road, Benin City. The death of the eleven persons from kerosene explosion, had nine of them recorded at the UBTH, while two were recorded in an unidentified hospital.

Co-ordinator-General, Save Accident Victims Association of Nigeria (SAVAN), Dr. Eddy Ehikhamo, said 90 per cent of the victims of kerosene explosion incidents were brought from Delta State to the UBTH, adding that the remaining cases were recorded in Edo State.

Ehikhamo advised Nigerians to know how to test kerosene to avoid adulterated product which he said was responsible for the explosion incidents. He listed the method of testing to include visual, volatility, sensory and out-door or light testing.

According to him, the visual method of testing involved observing the colour of kerosene, adding that if the product was colourless, then it is a good product, but if the colour is yellowish or gold, then it is adulterated kerosene.

Volatility method of testing, he explained, involved putting a little drop of kerosene on your skin to observe it. He said if it dried up leaving white patches, it then meant the kerosene was adulterated, but if it failed to dry quickly, it meant that the kerosene was good.

Ehikhamo explained that the sensory method entails smelling the product stressing that if the odour is choking, then the kerosene was adulterated, while the light testing requires dropping a little quantity of kerosene on a piece of paper and putting fire. He said if it catches fire immediately, then the kerosene has petrol in it.

Meanwhile, the accident which involved a 16-seater commuter bus belonging to Big Joe Motors and a trailer reportedly occurred by the Okuo Oil Palm Estate along the Benin-Auchi Road.

The bus which was said to be heading for the northern part of the country reportedly collided with a trailer while overtaking another vehicle.

Meanwhile the bodies of the five dead passengers have been deposited at the morgue of Our Hospital, Ikpoba Hill, Benin City.

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