

Gas Explosion Kills Four, Injures Many in Delta

Omon-Julius Onabu in Asaba

Three children and a woman were yesterday confirmed dead in an explosion that occurred in a gas plant at Agbor, Ika South Local Government Area (LGA), Delta State on Friday.

The explosion also left a dozen persons battling for their lives at different hospitals, following severe burns they sustained.

The explosion reportedly occurred due to a fire outbreak which occurred when a tanker laden with gas attempted to discharge gas at the commercial gas plant.

Fielding questions on the incident, the state governor, Sen. Ifeanyi Okowa confirmed the casualty figures after visiting

the gas plant and meeting with families of victims of the explosion.

He disclosed that the survivors had been duly referred to a specialised centre for the treatment of burns at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH), Benin City in Edo State, due to the high degree of burns they sustained.

Okowa described the fire disaster as unfortunate, saying the Delta State Government would be responsible for the cost of medical treatment of the victims.

Okowa said: "We have visited the place and the victims and we have seen the extent of damage caused by the inferno. We lost four persons; three children and a woman.

"After my visit to the two families that lost their dear ones,

I also visited the Central Hospital at Agbor where they were initially rushed to with varying degrees of burns ranging from 80 to 90 per cent.

"They were offered medical services even though they would not have been able to attend to them because of the extent of the burns so they have to transfer them to the Federal Medical Centre Asaba and the University of Benin Teaching Hospital with aid of ambulances provided by the state government.

"I have directed the Commissioner for Health to make some deposits at the hospitals to enable them to have full treatment," the governor explained.