

Three feared dead in fire, property razed

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LAGOS — THREE unidentified persons were reportedly feared dead and property running into several millions of naira destroyed yesterday in an early morning fire at 31 Allen Avenue Ikeja, Lagos. Seven fire fighters are still lying critically ill in the hospital as a result of severe injuries sustained in the process of putting out the fire.

This happened even as two persons were shot dead in a robbery incident in Anthony Village. The identities of the deceased in the robbery incident could not be ascertained

as at press time but unconfirmed sources said one of them was a policeman.

As at press time, the cause of the fire outbreak could not be ascertained but Mr. Raimi Abolarinwa, Chief Fire Serviceman who led the team to the scene said the fire could have been caused as a result of explosion from toxic chemicals stored in one of the offices.

According to an eye witness, the incident started around 2:00 am from a boutique shop when a loud sound reverberated in the area followed by a thick smoke which enveloped the area. The fire later extended to nearby houses.

It was gathered that the fire had already razed the one-storey building before the fire service men got to the scene. The building houses other offices like boutique shop, barbing saloon, perfume shop and household goods shop. The fire was later put out.

Explaining how the fire service men sustained the injuries, Mr. Julius Adedayo Assistant Director Lagos State Fire Service, said his men must have inhaled the fumes emitted from the chemical substance.

He added that the men were immediately rushed to the General Hospital, Ikeja where they are currently responding to medical treatment.