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Two dead, 8 injured in Delta pipeline explosion

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By Emma Amaize, Festus Ahon & Godwin Oghre

TWO persons were feared dead and eight others injured in an NNPC gas pipeline explosion, yesterday, at Okwokolo community, Mereje, Okpe Local Government Area of Delta State.

Officials of the Petroleum and Pipelines Marketing Company, PPMC, were battling to put out the fire ignited by the explosion as at 6.30 pm, but they disputed the claim that two persons died.

Many of the villagers fled for the fear of the unknown.

Two pick-up vans of PPMC were burnt in the fire disaster.

While a source said the explosion was caused by pipeline vandals, a villager said the pipeline sparked fired as PPMC officials were effecting repairs on a ruptured section.

It was gathered the fire started at about 3.30 pm. Our source said the injured persons were rushed to hospital for medical attention.

His words, "They were roasted like chickens. I wonder what they were doing near a gas pipeline. Our people don't learn from the mistake of others and what they hear. As I speak with you, they are being rushed to the hospital.

"I was on my way to Sapele when suddenly I saw a thick smoke ahead of me and by the time I got nearer, I saw that it was pipeline explosion."

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