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By Omeiza Ajayi

# 6 die in Abuja market fire

**A**BUJA— Six persons reportedly died while many sustained injuries in an early morning fire that engulfed a Tipper Market located in 3rd Avenue, Gwarinpa, Abuja, yesterday.

It was gathered that the fire was caused by a power surge at about midnight and before men of the Federal Capital Territory Fire Service could mobilise to the market, much havoc had been done.

An eye witness, Kefas Ibrahim, said: "We were woken up at about midnight. Almost every resident of the estate had to rush to the scene of the fire outbreak. We were all helpless and couldn't do anything.

"For over two hours, firefighters didn't come to the scene. Six people had already been burnt to death before they arrived. Some of the shop owners usually sleep there, so they were trapped in their shops.

"Many people have lost their sources of livelihood. Even private houses were burnt too. It was a sad situation. The corpses have been evacuated and the fire put out. It was caused by a spark in one of the shops."



*Scene of the inferno.*

He said some hoodlums took advantage of the commotion to vandalise shops, adding that while five bodies were evacuated to the morgue, one was burnt to ashes and couldn't be recovered.

He said: "Others who sustained injuries were rushed to the hospital. Houses sharing fences with the market were affected. Residents of War College Estate were woken up by the inferno and had to keep a vigil throughout the night."



*Some traders and the wares they were able to salvage. Photos: Abayomi Adeshida*

Police nab 3