

NIGERIA: PIPELINE EXPLOSION

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The Disaster

594 people have died following a fiery explosion from a burst oil pipeline near Jesse town in Ethiope West Local Government Area, in Nigeria's Delta State. The explosion occurred on Saturday 17 October at 19:00 (local time) and killed over 400 people immediately. Witnesses said that thousands of people had been involved in the illegal drawing of fuel from the burst pipeline since Thursday. One account said that a boy lit a cigarette and the whole area which was drenched in petrol exploded as a result. The injured are receiving treatment in neighbouring hospitals at Sapele, Amope, Eku and Mosogar. Hospitals in Sapele and Eku are overflowing with people who have varying degrees of burns. Many have died since the explosion. There are still over 200 people being treated in hospital.

Red Cross Action

The Nigerian Red Cross Society division at Warri in Delta State mobilised volunteers to assist in the evacuation of people from the site and provided first aid treatment to some of the injured. The Edo State Branch went to the area and did an assessment of the situation and the immediate needs of the people, forwarding a report to the NRCS Headquarters on the morning of 20 October.

Needs

The Nigerian Red Cross needs to replace: gauze bandages, dressing packs, syringes, drugs, mattresses, and other first aid materials. The International Federation has released CHF 10,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to allow the National Society to replenish first aid materials used to treat victims of the explosion.

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