

Morocco: Huge fire in Moroccan oil refinery under control

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MOHAMMEDIA, Morocco, Nov 26 (AFP) - A huge fire that broke out in Morocco's biggest oil installation in the port of Mohammedia was under control early Tuesday, and there were no casualties, the official MAP news agency said.

Earlier reports had said the blaze that broke out Monday night in a refinery belonging to Morocco's SAMIR company had claimed at least three lives.

Quoting a "crisis cell" set up by the government to coordinate relief efforts under Interior Minister Mostafa Sahel, MAP said there was "no danger" to people living nearby.

Firemen brought in from the entire region around Mohammedia, 65 kilometers (40 miles) south of Rabat, halted the progress of the flames.

MAP said the refinery had been flooded after torrential rain in the region over the past few days had swollen the El Maleh river. The floodwaters lifted waste oil and brought it into contact with hot parts of the refinery causing explosions and several fires.

But these blazes were away from where the oil was stocked and there were no leaks of gas, the agency said.

SAMIR provides Morocco with much of its needs in refined oil products.

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