

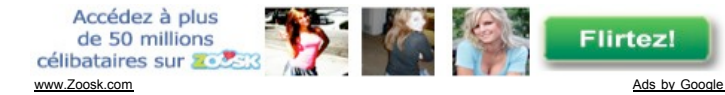
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**Nigeria: Major, 24 Others Die in Fire**

Barry Agbanigbi

25 May 2010

Asaba — A retired Army Major was among those who lost their lives when an oil tanker crashed and caught fire yesterday on Agbor/ Asaba Road in Delta State at about 4: 00pm.

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Though details of the incident were sketchy as at press time, eye witnesses confirmed that no fewer than 25 persons were roasted to death.

Two commuter buses and three cars that were at the scene of the incident could not survive the huge blazing fire that resulted from the tanker's crash. The vehicle was fully loaded with fuel.

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Not only were the humans and materials involved in the incident burnt, they were roasted beyond recognition.

An eye-witness account said the tanker exploded after running into a ditch.

Another source said the vehicle was trying to avoid knocking down a female fruit vendor when he suddenly lost control.

Police officers and sympathizers were seen retrieving burnt bodies from the charred vehicles.

Police image maker Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Charles Muka said investigations into the incident had begun.

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