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20 die in two Abuja crashes

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2011 05:09



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At least 20 people were killed when two heavy-duty trucks veered off the road and crushed many vehicles at Kugbo in Abuja yesterday, emergency management authorities said.

In the first accident at about 2.30pm, a truck loaded with iron rods lost control near Kugbo Mechanic Village and crossed over to the other lane, crushing three 12-seater Mitsubishi

commercial buses and two other cars.

Ten people were killed on the spot, according to the Abuja command of the road safety corps, and the truck also destroyed two electric poles.

The second accident happened while efforts were going on to rescue victims of the first crash. As bodies and injured people were being removed from crushed vehicles, the second truck carrying earth-moving equipment ran over a car near the Mogadishu Cantonment just metres away from the scene of the first crash, killing four people.

When our reporters visited scenes of the accidents, there were blood stains and decapitated human parts strewn on the road and on the affected vehicles as rescue operations went on.

Sights of mangled human bodies made motorists along the road weep.

Spokesman for the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Yusha'u Shuaib confirmed that 20 people were killed and many others injured.

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