

Benue auto crash claims 16 lives

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A multiple car crash yesterday at Jato village in Gwer Local Government Area of Benue State claimed 16 lives. Eyewitnesses told Daily Trust that the victims were burnt beyond recognition and that the bodies were taken to a nearby hospital at Aliade, the headquarters of the local government. They said only two passengers survived.

The witnesses said the accident occurred when a truck with registration number XQ639 –MKD collided with two oncoming vehicles.

The Benue State Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Alaribe Ejike, confirmed the accident and noted that details were been awaited from the divisional police officer in charge of the area. But no further information was made available to our reporter up to the time of filing the report.

In another accident yesterday, a tipper lorry skidded off a bridge and plunged into River Benue in Makurdi. Eyewitnesses said the accident occurred when the driver of a 911 lorry attempted to overtake the tipper close to Wurukum roundabout.

They said the 911 driver attempted to overtake in a effort to avoid crushing an oncoming motorcyclist but in the process, he swerved and collided with the tipper forcing it to plunge into the river. The driver of the tipper and his conductor were rescued by canoe riders.