

6 BURNT TO DEATH IN KADUNA TANKER CRASH



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Six persons have been burnt to death, following a crash involving two fuel tankers at Mararaban Jos, Igabi Local government area of Kaduna State.

Eyewitness said the incident, which saw two trailers collide and burst into flames, took place at about 2.00 a.m yesterday.

The incident created panic as residents ran to safe places because of the tanker's explosion that rocked the community.

Sunday Trust gathered that travellers that followed the Kano- Zaria expressway also faced untold hardship as a result of the holdup that lasted for several hours.

"Six people were completely burnt to death. A house and two nearby shops were also burnt as a result of the inferno. Their corpses were taken away by the officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and officials of the Red Cross," said Haruna Mohammed.

"One of the tankers was reversing in preparation for a trip to Gusau. But unfortunately, the other tanker that was also loaded with fuel hit the tanker from behind and both went up in flames, killing six people.

"It caused panic in our area as resident fled to safe areas, thinking that armed robbers had invaded the community because of the burst from the tankers tyres," another resident, Mustapha Ibrahim, explained how the incident happened.

It was gathered that the intervention of the men of the fire service two hours after the crash, prevented the fire from spreading in the community.

Kaduna State Governor, Mukhtar Ramalan Ramalan Yero, who visited the scene of the inferno, described it as unfortunate.

The governor urged tanker drivers to be safety-conscious and promised that the State government would soon complete the trailers' park in all parts of the State.

When contacted, Kaduna State sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Mr Olumike Olagunju, confirmed the incident.

Olagunju said, "10 persons were involved in the incident. Six of them were burnt to death. One injured and three rescued from the scene.

"The accident occurred around Mararaban Jos in Igabi local government area of Kaduna State at about 2a.m (yesterday) when a tanker loaded with fuel was reversing from a car wash into the highway and collided with another trailer on the service lane. The tanker caught fire instantly," he explained.

"The remains of the dead persons have been handed over to the Petroleum Tankers Drivers Association (PTDA) and the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW). The injured persons are still receiving treatment in an hospital," Olagunju added.

He said his men were immediately mobilized to the scene but were not able to do anything tangible because of the fire until the fire service came to the scene.

He said his men were ensuring that the traffic was being controlled while effort was being made to remove the burnt tankers and the products on the trailer were also being off-loaded manually.

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