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3 BURNT AS PETROL TANKER CRASHES AT GIRI JUNCTION



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Three persons, including a commercial cyclist, sustained various degrees of burns after a petrol tanker crashed and burst into flames last week at Giri junction, along Gwagwalada-Zuba road.

Our reporter learnt that tubers of yam that were displayed for sale, including soft drinks, loaves of bread, baskets of potatoes and some household items worth thousands of naira were destroyed by the inferno.

A witness said the incident happened at around 3:00 p.m. when an unmarked tanker carrying 33,000 liters of petrol coming on speed from Zuba axis lost control and crashed.

He said the driver was negotiating a bend at a diversion, near the NNPC Mega filling station when the tanker fell into a drainage spilling its content on the road which ignited instantly.

"In fact, most of the women selling yams, onions, potatoes and other food items had to abandon their wares and ran for their dear lives. Those boys that always hawked items on the road also ran for their lives otherwise many casualties would have been recorded," the witness said.

Our reporter, who was at the scene, saw heaps of yams, onions and potatoes burnt, while men of the Fire Service were busy trying to put out the fire from the tanker.

When contacted, Gwagwalada unit commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Alhaji Ahmed Abubakar, confirmed the incident, saying three persons sustained various degrees of burns and were taken to St. Mary Catholic Clinic at Gwagwalada.

He expressed concern over the attitude of some hawkers and traders, who always displayed their wares close to the highway and called on the relevant area council officials to move the hawkers away at the junction.

"Although I believe that by the time the second lane is completed, those people who display their wares and hawk at that junction would definitely move back, but necessary steps need to be taken now to curb such situation," he said.

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