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2 burnt to death as tanker explodes at Sheda village

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The driver of a petrol tanker and a passenger were burnt to death on Thursday evening when the vehicle crashed at Sheda village, on the Abuja-Lokoja express way.

A witness said the accident happened around 6:37 p.m. when the driver of an unmarked Daf tanker carrying petrol from the Lokoja end, lost control and crashed into a ditch while on speed.

He said the tanker driver had overtaken another vehicle when he suddenly lost control, veered off the road and crashed into a ditch, with the vehicle instantly going up in flames.

"The tanker driver and one other person that were trapped inside the vehicle could not be rescued because of the flames that engulfed the tanker, which forced onlookers to stay at a distance looking on helplessly," he said.

Our reporter, who arrived shortly after the incident, saw residents of the community and motorists as well as other passers-by gathered at the scene, while men of the fire service were struggling to put out the fire.

When contacted, Yangoji unit commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Assistant Corps Commander Austine Chukwudi Okeke, confirmed the incident.

He attributed it to speed limit violation, saying the two corpses that were removed after the fire fighters had put off fire, were taken to Kwali General Hospital morgue.

He further disclosed that two persons were also injured in another accident which occurred in the afternoon of the same day at Sheda village, also along the Abuja-Lokoja expressway.

The FRSC commander said the accident happened around 1:23 p.m. when a J5 Peugeot bus with registration number MLF 154 XC on high speed, had a tyre burst, adding that those injured were taken to Rhema clinic at Kwali.

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