

Three feared dead in Ilorin road mishap

THREE persons may have died in Ilorin, Kwara State, when a heavy-duty crane careened off the road, and smashed into some roadside sellers of food and mobile phone accessories.

According to an eyewitness, the vehicle, a heavy-duty brand, which was descending the slope of Ahmadu Bello Road on its way to Murtala Muhammed Road, Ilorin, suddenly developed a break failure, and the driver, apparently unable to control it, veered off the road and crushed the victims, one of whom was a female food vendor.

The accident, which occurred at about 9.30 a.m., could have been worse but for the vigilance of a traffic warden on duty, simply identified as "Mr. Rowland," who on sighting the awkward movement of the crane with its head lamp on, hurriedly stopped movement of vehicles along the intersection.

The gravity with which the crane landed on crossing the intersection, made it to sink by about 18 centimetres below the land level.

It was not yet certain the number of people that actually died in the accident,

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but three bodies were immediately retrieved from under the crane, moments after the incident.

When *The Guardian* visited the scene at about 10.00 a.m., a woman's head, with neatly done hair-style, and one of her eyeballs presenting a gory picture that forced tears down the cheeks of many sympathisers.

Other people who survived the accident believed that more people could still be trapped under the crane.

Congeaed human blood was everywhere, and mobile phone accessories believed to have been owned by some of the victims, equally littered the scene.

The development forced a heavy traffic on the road. Other traders who had earlier displayed their wares for the day's business had hurriedly pack their consignments on hearing the bad news.

Although the engine of the crane with registration number OYA 6239A had stopped, its headlamp was still on when *The Guardian* visited.