

# Three Feared Killed, As Tanker Fire Razed 100 Shops

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**A**T least three persons were yesterday feared dead in an auto accident along Choba road, close to the University of Port Harcourt; even as a tanker explosion yesterday led to a fire which razed about 100 shops and injured about 20 traders.

The fuel tanker, with registration number SN

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802PHC, lost control as it was chased by the police at Rumubiakini, near Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) residential quarters and spilled its content into the street, after which there was a spark and the entire area was engulfed in fire.

The auto accident was reportedly due to over speeding by the driver of

an 18-seater bus who lost control while trying to dodge a pothole, and overran a motor cyclist rider and two others in front of Choba town market.

The tanker fire, which started around 7am yesterday, also burnt over 20 vehicles and ten private buildings.

The incident caused panic within the neighboring communities as residents and shop owners relocated to other

streets for safety. They blamed the police for the carnage, as they moaned their lost goods and properties.

It took the combined effort of fire fighters from Nigeria Agip Oil Company, Shell Petroleum and the state fire service to put off the fire.

The Rivers State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mrs. Rita Abbey said the incident is being investigated.