

Three feared dead in Lagos tanker fire

By David Ibemere

A 33,000 thousand litre tanker loaded with diesel belonging to Major Group was yesterday gutted by fire at Liverpool Bridge in Apapa, Lagos, leaving the driver and two others dead.

According to an eyewitness, Mr. Kola Adewale, the driver, was coming from Mile Two on considerable speed, but on getting to the bridge, he lost control while trying to negotiate a bend.

Adewale said: "The driver was on full speed when he lost control and the vehicle fell hitting the median. "One of the conductors near the door managed to jump out, though not without sustaining severe burns.

"In tears, he was shouting that two of his colleagues were still in the vehicle which by then was completely engulfed in flame."

Another eyewitness, John Pascal, said: "The extent of the fire would have been worse if not for the prompt response of the fire servicemen and the fact that the median and concrete guard prevented the tanker from falling off the bridge and unto vehicles and people below."

Speaking to *The Guardian* on the incident, the Chief Fire Service Officer of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Wale Olayiwola, attributed the cause of the incident to carelessness and over speeding.

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