

Fed- (FRSC) Com-
 mander of the FRSC, Mr. Ogochukwu Ugboma, who made the disclosure in Lokoja yesterday, indicated that since the victims were burnt beyond recognition, a mass burial was the only available option.

He indicated that the severity of burns sustained made it impossible for the identity and the gender of the victims to be determined.

According to him, the victims were buried in a mass grave at Alewu village on the highway, adding that the police and environmental officials from the Kogi Local Council were part of the burial.

He explained that 17 persons were involved in the accident, which occurred in the night of Friday, August 5, at Alewu village, adding that all the occupants of the two vehicles involved died except one man who sustained a minor injury.

Ugboma added that the injured victim was later treated at Ideal Hospital, Koton Karfe and has since been discharged.

The two vehicles involved included a Lagos-Kano bound Toyota Hiace passenger bus with registration number Yobe 11A 10 YB and a private Nissan Xterra Jeep with registration number Lagos CV 516 LSD heading to Benin from Abuja.

The sector commander blamed the drivers of the two vehicles for the accident, stating that they veered off their lanes, which resulted in a head-on collision.

2 In another development, two people were feared dead, while the driver and



In another development, two people were feared dead, while the driver and 16 other passengers escaped death in an 18-seater bus along Benin-Asaba Expressway

16 other passengers escaped death in an 18-seater bus along Benin-Asaba Expressway yesterday, when one of its tyres burst while on top speed.

According to an eyewitness, Benson Emeka, the bus with the belonging to Akwa Ibom Transport Company, was heading towards Onitsha when the tyre burst few meters before Agbor town, making the bus summersault before crashing into the bush.

Though early reports of the victims were hazy, it was gathered that the two occupants of the bus feared dead sustained fatal injuries on their heads, accompanied with severe bleeding before they were rushed to a nearby hospital in Agbor town by sympathizers, who besieged the scene of the accident.

Officials of the FRSC, who were at scene to ensure safety of the injured victims, told *The Guardian* the accident occurred because the tyres were old, adding that when the front tyre burst, the bus summersaulted.

They, however, declined commenting on the two passengers feared dead, but warned motorists to avoid the use of old tyres on the highway.