

Five Die In Abakpa Market Tragedy

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At least five persons lost their lives when a water tanker crashed into some lock-up stalls in Abakpa Market, Enugu on Saturday morning.

The tanker with number: XA 196 KPA was said to be heading for an unconfirmed destination in Abakpa to supply water to residents, who have been hit by water scarcity in the past few years when the incident occurred around 9a.m. According to eyewitness account, the tanker was descending the steep along the Abakpa- Trans-Ekulu road when the driver lost control as a result of break failure and the vehicle speedily crashed into the nearby shops.

Two passengers in a J5 bus and some street traders were among those crushed to death in the incident that left several others fatally wounded.

Sympathisers, who trooped out in their large numbers wailed uncontrollably, as men of the Federal Road Safety Corp (FRSC) and the Civil Defence Corp (CDC), who came for rescue operations tried to control the crowd.

At least five bodies were retrieved from the debris of the shops bulldozed by the tanker according to S. A. Isewon, an official of the FRSC, who led the operation that was carried out with the aid of a towing van belonging to the Enugu Sector Command of the Commission.

While some residents blamed the incident on the scarcity of water, making people to resort to such sources, an official of CDC said that casualties would have been minimal had traders heeded warnings not to do business along the road.