

Tanker Explosion Kills 20, Destroys 10 Vehicles In Delta

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FEATURED NEWS



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UGHELLI / ASABA – At least 20 persons were killed following a tanker explosion at Ugbenu community section of the Warri-Benin Expressway in Delta State, residents said.

The 20 persons were roasted to death when the tanker carrying petroleum products exploded around Koko junction, Ugbenu community in Ethiope West Local Government Area of Delta State.

But Godwin Alphonsus Hakim, Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Delta Command, said only three people died.

Eyewitnesses told *Daily Independent* that the incident occurred about 11:30a.m on Wednesday when the tanker fell and exploded.

It was gathered that the victims were burnt beyond recognition while no fewer than 10 vehicles were gutted by fire.

“The tanker carrying petroleum products was trying to escape a bad spot when it fell and suddenly exploded between Ugbenu community and Ologbo section of the Benin/Warri road in Delta State”, the source said.

According to the eyewitness, “More than 20 persons were burnt beyond recognition. About 10 vehicles were trapped in the explosion and most of the victims were occupants of the burnt vehicles.”

“Many people were injured. It was a terrible situation. We don’t think the available health facilities around here will be enough to take care of the casualties,” one of the sources said.

According to Hakim, FRSC Delta Sector Commander, “The tanker carrying petroleum product was trying to escape a bad spot when it fell and suddenly exploded between Koko Junction and Ologbo section of the Benin/Warri in Delta State.

On the cause of the incident, Hakim said it was caused by over-speeding as it got to a point the driver could not control the tanker, warning that motorists must be careful, maintain their vehicles and avoid too much speed.

While advising that drivers must be patient and obey traffic rules, he said residents around should avoid scooping of fuel which may worsen the situation as another explosion may lead to other deaths.