



The Roads Journal

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Proper Ways To Handle, Transport Accident Victims

The Yuletide season is over, but activities marking the aftermath are also as pulsating as the season, owing to the frenzied approach to work and businesses after the long holidays.

A number of people approach the unfolding New Year with the aim to quickly recover the dip in their finances, brought about by expenses made in the course of the Christmas celebrations.

This period is also noted for its high number of travelers who are wont to return to base after the celebrations from the places traveled to, resulting in higher traffic of passengers and vehicles jostling for the right of way on the roads.

Once again, we find drivers, especially commercial drivers who are desperate to maximise profit by making return trips over and above what is obtainable in normal circumstances.

News monitored by DAILY INDEPENDENT, shows that about 48 road crashes were reported to have occurred across the country in the first three weeks of January alone, with over 350 lives lost in the various incidents. Majority of these crashes are attributed to desperation and gross indiscipline exhibited by drivers, or what is commonly referred to as human factors.

Many of the deaths are as a result of the poor handling of the victims of these crashes by first responders who often are bereft of what to do, resulting in the mishandling of the victims, leading to seizures, complications, and cutting of breaths.

Many victims would have survived the accidents, but out of poor management of their case they gave up the ghost.

Another sad narrative of first responders to accident victims in Nigeria are those who come to the scene of victims writhing in pain only for them to bring out their phones to take pictures of the victims to post online.

It is also reported of some first responders who are quick to ransack the pockets, bags, and possession of the victims to steal their valuables; afterwards they will disappear from the scene leaving the poor victims to their fate.

The worse are the hospitals or clinics where such victims are rushed to, who reject them on the flimsy reason that the first responders need to obtain a police report before they can attend to the accident victims.

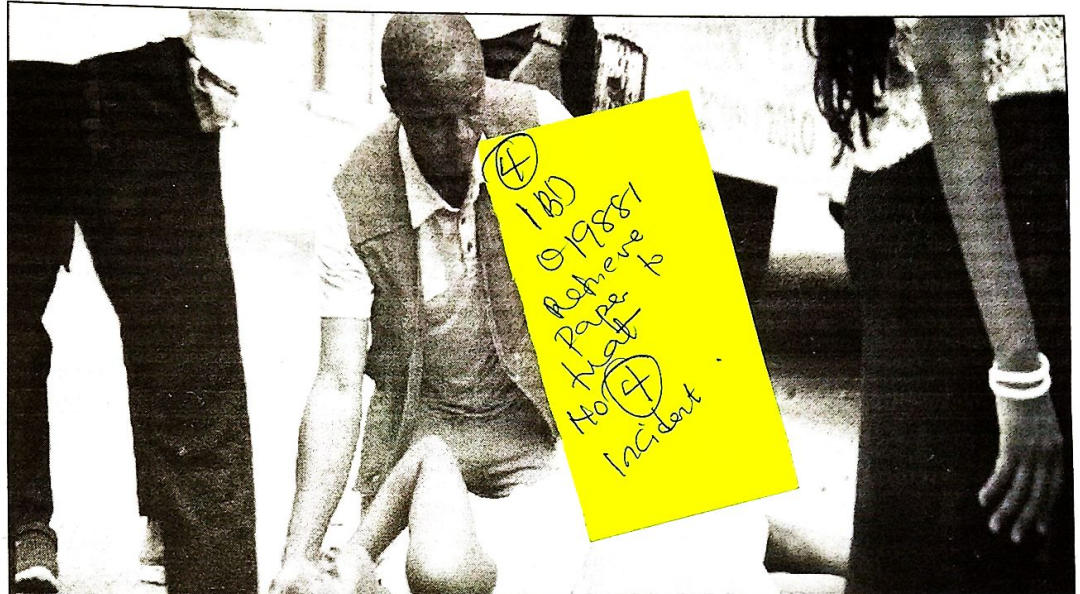
Some first responders are subjected to some of the most debilitating embarrassments by police authorities for their good acts, discouraging many who may want to offer such help in the future.

Ajibade Adekunle, Area Commander, TRACE, Ado Odo Ota, Ogun state, said: "Many first responders to accidents victims lack basic training to know what to do in the case of a road crash, and this could prove fatal if the wrong approach is given to them."

"That is the reason why the public are asked to call the emergency line; in the country we use 112, which are linked to rescue agencies like ours for prompt response to such incidents. It is good for help to get to accident victims on time, but what would a hurried help be, if it worsens an already bad situation?"

"Our men have been thoroughly trained for such unforeseen circumstances and I would like the motoring public to always contact our Corp in such case, especially if such crash is within our jurisdiction, in Ogun state. I also believe as a responsive government, efforts are being made to provide more ambulance points on our highways," he added.

The passion to see an improvement in the way accident victims are treated by first responders, especially those COVID-19 infected patients, led GreenLight Initiative Group, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Lagos State and the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, to carry out a COVID-19 response safety training in Lagos which is aimed at empowering ambulance and truck drivers on the safe handling of crash



Accident victim

victims.

According to Simon Patrick Obi, Executive Director, GreenLight Initiative, he said: "The training modules are designed to empower these drivers and assistants with COVID-19 safety protocols; basic infection prevention control; basic first aid, appropriate and rational use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and education on road safety measures."

"The training will enable these drivers to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19, enforce and advocate for COVID-19 safety protocols as they deliver on their jobs; and ensure that COVID-19 supplies and equipment are delivered to hospitals in a safe and timely manner," he said.

Dr Ena Oshinowo, Senior Manager, Trauma Care International Foundation (TCTF), an NGO, while speaking recently at training for first responders, said the Foundation had collaborated with FRSC to train 100 first responders during the ember months.

Oshinowo said that the foundation's campaign, tagged "Operation Mobile Human Ambulance" was aimed at providing basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid skills to vulcanizers, commercial drivers, filling station attendants and critical bystanders on major highways and accidents prone routes.

She said that the scheme also targeted at up-skilling personnel of FRSC as well as Special Marshals on CPR, First Aid and crowd control.

Oshinowo said that Trauma Care International and Health Emergency Initiative (HEI) had trained 159 first responders and other critical stakeholders on CPR, first aid and crowd control.

"First responders do not need to wait for doctors like myself before they can save lives, in case of someone in an accident who loses blood and stop breathing."

"Someone who stops breathing could be revived through Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation with the support of first responders who can jumpstart the heart to bring the person back to live," Oshinowo said.

Reported Crashes In January 2021

52 escape death in Anambra multiple accident on New Year's Day 2021 - January 1

No fewer than 52 people escaped death in an accident involving six vehicles on Ihiala road, Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra as

the New Year 2021 began on Friday

Mr Andrew Kumapayi, State Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), confirmed the incident in Awka.

Kumapayi said the accident which occurred at about 2 p.m., was caused by speeding and loss of control.

15 die in separate road crashes in Edo - January 15

No fewer than 15 persons on Friday lost their lives in two separate road accidents in Edo State, officials have said.

One of the accidents involved a Mercedes Benz which rammed into six children who were playing football in a compound in Arua Uromi in Esan North-East Local Government Area, while trying to dodge a pothole.

Mr Benamaisa said the accident at Agbede was caused by brake failure and overspeeding.

14 killed in central Nigeria road accident - January 15

At least 14 people were killed and nine others injured in a road accident on the Anyingha-Akoka highway in a central north state of Nigeria on Thursday local police confirmed Friday

Solomon Aghure, sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Kogi state, who confirmed this to reporters in Lokoja, the state capital, said two trucks and

a passenger bus were involved in the accident, which occurred on Thursday evening.

8 killed in two road accidents in central Nigeria - January 16

At least 8 people were killed in a road accident in a central state of Nigeria on Thursday, a local official said.

Solomon Aghure, sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Kogi state, told media on Thursday that the first accident, confirming the incident, the official said eight people lost their lives in an accident along the Kabba-Avere road in Kogi at about 11:30 p.m. (2230 GMT).

Bauchi road accident claims 21 lives of 22 passengers - January 13

Mr Yusuf Abdullahi, the Bauchi state Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), has said that 21 out of the 22 passengers involved in a road accident in Bauchi have died.

The accident occurred on Sunday morning when a Toyota Hummer bus belonging to Borno Express heading to Maiduguri from Jos, with 14 passengers, and a VW Golf 3 wagon coming from Misau heading to Bauchi, with 8 passengers, including two female children, onboard, had a head-on collision.

5 killed in road accident in SW Nigeria - January 13

Five people were killed and 16 others injured following a road accident along a busy expressway in southwest Nigeria on Wednesday, said local authorities in an update on Thursday.

The accident involved a bus that rammed into a truck from the rear while making a turning at the Danlilu community along the Lagos-Ibadan expressway one of the busiest in the country, said Ojuoro Olusola, area commander of the Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps (TRACE).

How 15 persons died in Borno road accident - January 12

About 15 persons have been sent to their graves in a fatal motor accident involving two buses along the Maiduguri - Damaturu road on Friday.

The Borno Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Mr Sanusi Ibrahim, confirmed the development in Maiduguri.

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