

53 burnt to death in Benin-Onitsha auto crash

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THE Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Edo State has confirmed that 53 persons were burnt to death in a road crash that occurred on Thursday evening at Abudu town along Benin-Agbor-Onitsha Express road.

It said eight vehicles including one motorcycle were involved in the accident. The FRSC listed the vehicles to include two commercial Toyota Hummer buses, one Dyna truck, one tanker carrying petrol, one Ford bus and one Toyota Corolla.

An eyewitness said security agents and officials of FRSC watched helplessly as the victims burnt to death as there was no fire service station at Abudu town, headquarters of Orhionwon Local Government Area to rescue the victims.

A statement released by the FRSC, Edo State Sector Command on yesterday said five other persons sustained injuries and had been taken to the hospital for treatment. The statement said everyone in the two hummer buses, Toyota Sienna, and Corolla car burnt to ashes.

It attributed the cause of the accident to brake failure which led to explosion from the tanker. The statement said health workers from the local government authorities had been invited to take charge of the mass burial of the victims. When contacted, the FRSC Sector Commander, Samuel Olukoya, said he was on his way to Abudu to get first hand information about the accident.