

17 die in Delta tanker explosion

- Police confirm three deaths

July 23, 2020 in **City Beats, News, News Update**

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By Elo Edremoda, Warri

Seventeen persons reportedly burnt to death on Wednesday where a petrol tanker fell and exploded into flames near Koko Junction on the Benin/Sapele Expressway in Ethiope West council area of Delta State. Four vehicles were burnt in the incident.

The Nation learnt that the tanker spilled its content as it fell at a bad spot and residents rushed to scoop the product.

A truck driver, Kola Akintayo, who witnessed the incident, said another vehicle passing by scraped a metal, igniting a fire. "That was what caused the fire," he said.

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Another trucker said 17 persons died in the incident.

Officials of Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and security agencies evacuated bodies and rushed the injured to a hospital in Oghara community.

The incident has caused a traffic snarl, forcing mobile policemen to take up emergency traffic control duties.

Police spokesperson Onome Onowakpoyeya said three persons died in the incident.