

Petrol tanker fire wrecks havoc in Delta



A truck carrying petrol burst into flames yesterday in Agbor, **Delta State**.

According to eyewitnesses, one person was burnt beyond recognition, while three others were injured.

The actual number of those who died is unknown. But no fewer than 10 houses and vehicles around the scene were consumed in the inferno, The Nation learnt.

The explosion, it was gathered, occurred yesterday afternoon when the driver of the 33,000-litre tanker while making a u-turn on the busy Old Lagos/Asaba Road had brake failure. The vehicle fell and exploded.

It was learnt that some residents and passersby attempted to put out the flames before firemen from the state and federal authorities were mobilised to the scene.

Director of the state Fire Services, Eugene Oziwele, who confirmed the story, said: "You know Agbor is a sloppy place, as the spilt fuel was flowing, the fire was spreading.

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"If you ask how many lives were lost, I don't know but one is that the casualties were many."

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Delta State Governor, Chief Sheriff Oborevwori, has extended his condolences to the families of victims of the incident.

Oborevwori, in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Sir Festus Ahon, described the incident as horrifying and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured and fortitude to those bereaved in the incident.

Oborevwori directed the Ministry of Health, Emergency Management Agency and other relevant authorities to expedite action by providing support to victims of the incident.

The governor commended the Fire Service, the people of Ika South Local Government and security agencies who rallied round to put out the inferno and their dedication to assisting those affected.