

Many feared dead in Abuja truck explosion

MANY were feared dead last night around the Karu bridge area of the nation's capital, Abuja, following the explosion of a fuel-laden truck.

Witnesses said the truck lost control around the bridge, which is between Kugbo and Nyanya on the Abuja-Keffi Expressway.

According to findings, some cars were trapped in the incident with their occupants unable to escape.

Reports have it that many residents ran for safety while efforts were made to reach out to concerned authorities about 7:55pm. Officials of the Feder-

- FEMA, Fire service, police battle fire

From Gbenga Omokhunu, Abuja

al Capital Territory (FCT), Fire Service, Emergency Management Agency and police were on ground rescuing people.

Head Public Affairs of FEMA, Nkechi Isa said: "The accident, which occurred about 7.14 this evening involved a Compressed Natural Gas CNG truck and other vehicles.

"According to the Head of Forecasting Response and Mitigation division of FEMA, Mr Mark Nyam, the accident occurred when the driver of the CNG truck lost control on

the bridge due to brake failure, thereby running into other motorists and leading to an explosion.

"He noted that the search and rescue team of FEMA, Federal Fire Service, FCT Fire Service, the Nigeria Police Force and NEMA are on the ground to rescue the casualties".

Victims of the incident were being taken to the State House Clinic.

A source told The Nation that the affected victims are over 15 and that the Asokoro Hospital and National Hospital could no longer accommodate victims.