

Three dead, 11 injured, 19 vehicles, 35 shops razed as fuel tanker goes up in flames in Niger

Adelowo Oladipo | Minna

THREE persons have been confirmed dead as a result of a petrol tanker which went up in flames after it fell at Dikko junction in Gurara Local Government Area of Niger State, at about 8:30 pm on Friday.

Eleven people suffered varying degrees of injuries while 19 vehicles and 35 shops were burnt.

Director General, Niger State Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA), Alhaji Ahmed Ibrahim Inga, who confirmed the incident to the *Sunday Tribune* on Saturday in Minna, the state

capital, further disclosed that the incident occurred along the Abuja-Kaduna highway, adding that most of the injured were from Kano State.

According to him, accident happened took place at Dikko-junction on the highway, adding that five out of the eleven injured persons, suffered serious burns.

According to him, "we received a report from our Suleja desk officer that there was a tanker that went up in flames and many people were affected. Before our officials arrived at the scene of the incident,

the driver of the tanker had absconded, thereby making it difficult for us to know where the vehicle was coming from."

Inga stated further that firefighters from the state's fire service in conjunction with their counterparts in the Federal Fire Service were able to bring the fire under control around 4:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Inga added that the corpses of the dead had been deposited at the morgue of the Umaru Yar'Adua General Hospital, Sabon Wuse, in Tarfa Local Government Area of the state while those that were injured

were also taken to the same hospital.

"The Niger State government is already taking care of the transport fares of some of the injured persons to Kano State while we have had to suspend our assessment process as a result of the tension being generated among the residents of the communities," he added.

He told Sunday Tribune that he, in conjunction with the other officials of the agency, would visit the scene of the incident today so as to have a better assessment of the impact of the accident.