Grandmother, grandchild die in Ogun tanker explosion

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A grandmother and her grandchild on Sunday morning lost their lives in an inferno after a fuel tanker exploded at Lafenwa area of Abeokuta, the state capital.

Apart from the loss of lives, property worth millions of naira were also destroyed in the explosion.

According to the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps (TRACE), Babatunde Akinbiyi, the incident occurred at about 4:45 a.m., when the tanker conveying Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) fell and spilt its content on the road.

Akinbiyi said the tanker was making its way to Mile 2/Rounder axis from Oju-I-rin, Lafenwa, when the incident occurred.

He explained that the actions of some residents who scooped fuel from the fallen tanker resulted into an explosion, despite warnings by TRACE, fire service and other security personnel for them to stay away from the scene.

This development came 12 days after a similar incident occurred at the Ogere end of the Lagos-Ibadan expressway, where four persons were killed.

The TRACE PRO said the remains of the causalities had been deposited at the morgue of the General Hospital, Ijaiye.

He said: "A fully loaded PMS laden tanker, due to axle problem, overturned at about 4:45 a.m. today (Sunday, November 28) while making its way inbound Mile 2/Rounder axis from Oju-Irin, Lafenwa, spilling its content in the process and affecting traffic on the axis.

"While TRACE, police, FRSC, fire service, OGSAS, SEMA and other first responders were working assiduously to restore normalcy as transloading was already in progress, the general public, particularly the motoring public, domiciled and moving around the axis were already scooping fuel and engaging in other unwholesome acts, which regrettably sparked off the fire.

"Two lives were lost in the unfortunately inferno; that of a grandmother and grandchild, whose gender cannot be ascertained, while property worth millions of naira were destroyed."