

20 feared killed as fuel tanker explodes in Ore

AT least 20 people were reportedly burnt to death in Ore, Odigbo Local Government Area of Ondo State on Sunday night when a fuel tanker exploded and burst into flames.

The fuel-laden tanker was said to have fallen and spilt its contents while some people were scooping the fuel when the incident happened.

According to a source, the tanker burst when the phone held by one of the people scooping the fuel ignited a spark.

According to the source, about 20 people, including a pregnant woman and three underage children who wanted to buy fuel from the people scooping fuel, were caught up in the fire.

He said the three minors who wanted to buy from the people scooping it were holding the sum of N100,000 before the tanker went off in flame.

Another eyewitness who gave his name as Cyriacus explained that he was in the church when the tanker fell while the people moved to the scene of the incident, scooping fuel.

He said the people were warned by the pastor of the church but they refused to heed the warnings from the cleric.

He said "We were inside the church when we heard that loud sound of the tanker that fell. It was raining but people rushed there and they were taking fuel until the place went up in flames after a spark from a phone.

"Three minors and a pregnant lady died in the inferno, and we counted over 15 bodies. A pregnant woman and minors died."

The Ondo state command police spokesperson, Funmi Odunlami, however, could not confirm the number of people affected in the fire, saying she was yet to get details of the incident.