

12 burnt to death as commercial bus, truck collide on Benin-Auchi highway

TRAGEDY struck on Saturday morning along the Benin-Auchi highway as 12 passengers were burnt to death in a fatal accident involving a Toyota Hiace bus and a truck.

Cyril Mathew, Edo State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps

(FRSC), who confirmed the incident, said the crash occurred around 5:00 a.m. at Igueoviobo community, near an army checkpoint on the highway.

According to the FRSC boss, the bus, which left Zuba in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and was traveling to Benin, collided with an oncom-

ing truck heading to Auchi.

"The entire occupants of the bus were burnt to death in the crash. The accident likely resulted from fatigue, as the driver may have dozed off, leading to the collision," he said.

Following the impact, he said the bus was engulfed in flames, making it im-

possible to save the passengers.

Matthew noted, however, that the FRSC authorities were able to identify the deceased through the vehicle's manifest and had since contacted their families.

He explained that the truck driver and his assistant escaped unhurt.