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## Five feared dead in Ibadan factory accident

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At least five workers of Sumal Nigeria Limited, a confectionery in the Oluyole Industrial estate in Ibadan, Oyo State capital, were believed to have died when one its storage tanks fell on them.

Our correspondent gathered that the incident occurred around 9.30a.m. on Friday when a Flour Mills of Nigeria Plc truck, with registration number Lagos XP 845 SMK was about to offload flour into the silo bin. The management of the firm and the state command of the Nigeria Police, however, said that only one person, the driver of the truck, died during the unfortunate incident.

The Human Resources Manager of the company, Mr. Nobert Ajayi, and the Police Public Relations Officer in the state command, Miss Olabisi Okuwobi, told journalists on separate occasions that two other people were injured. Findings by our correspondent at the University College Hospital revealed that the driver, simply identified as Mr. Durojaiye died while a 36 year-old worker, Mr. Okechukwu Francis, had an open fracture on one of his legs and hands.

It was learnt that the storage facility fell on the workers and allegedly killed four of them on the spot while the fifth person died on the way to the hospital.

An official of the firm, who pleaded anonymity confirmed to our correspondent that the driver of the truck, whom he described as a fat man, died while about eight others were still trapped under the heavy tank. Our correspondent, who visited the scene of the incident around 11.15a.m., observed that the container was still lying on the trapped workers while the management of the company was still making frantic efforts to remove it.

The workers later had to pack the flour bags manually from the silo. They were still packing the flour bags as at 3.30p.m. when our correspondent left the scene while the fate of the trapped workers was uncertain. Ajayi, however, explained that only four people were beside the facility when the incident happened, hence only one person was still trapped as at press-time.

He said, "The Silo was well guarded, and only four people died. The man would not have died but because he was too fat and he could not run well."

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