

CITY ROUND

Nine killed, four injured in Enugu, Anambra auto crashes

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Accident scene

Raphael Ede with agency report

At least nine persons have been confirmed dead in two road accidents at Aki-na-Ukwa junction on Enugu-Port Harcourt Expressway, Enugu State and Awka-Onitsha Expressway in Anambra.

The Enugu Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps, Mr Ogbonnaya Kalu, who confirmed the death of seven people, said the crash was caused as a result of brake failure.

He said, “The trailer failed brakes and ran into shops around that place and finally ended in a mechanic workshop where three vehicles parked were smashed. Seven persons died and their bodies have been deposited at a morgue in the area.”

An eyewitness, Uche Stanley, told our correspondent that the accident occurred around 4pm on Thursday.

He said, “A truck fully loaded with drinks was coming from Port-Harcourt to Enugu. All of a sudden the driver lost control of the vehicle and ran into lock-up shops at Aki-na-Ukwa junction.

“The truck crushed those who were selling breads and water at the junction. As of Thursday night, seven people died and by this morning, they are still trying to remove the trailer to know if more people were still trapped.

“The most painful was a lady the trailer crushed. Her husband was there but he could not help her until she gave up the ghost waving at him.”

The Anambra accident involved two cars and a tanker resulting in the death of two persons while four others were injured.

The FRSC Sector Commander in the state, Mr Andrew Kumapayi, confirmed the incident to the *News Agency of Nigeria* on Friday.

Kumapayi attributed the accident which occurred around 10am on Friday to speeding and loss of control.

He said, “The fatal crash involved a tanker with the number plate, ENU921ZK, a truck with the number plate XQ679EPE and a Toyota Hiace bus without a visible number plate.

“The crash led to the death of two persons and four others sustained various degrees of injury. The injured persons have been taken to Princeton Orthopedic Hospital, for medical attention while the corpses of the deceased have been deposited at the mortuary.”

The sector commander warned drivers against violation of speed limit and to shun all forms of dangerous driving that could lead to avoidable road accidents.