

30 feared dead in road crashes in Imo

November 25, 2017 Steve Uzoechi



About 30 persons are believed to have been burnt to death in multiple road accidents which occurred in the Okwudor axis of the Orlu-Owerri Road in Imo State. An eyewitness told our correspondent that the road tragedy occurred around 3pm Friday and before help could come the passengers had been burnt to death. Disaster struck when a heavy duty tanker conveying diesel from the Orlu end of the road towards Owerri, for reasons yet to be ascertained collided head-on with an 18-seater commercial bus conveying passengers to Orlu from Owerri.

Following the sudden collision, another 18-seater bus speeding behind the crashed bus also lost control and rammed into the crashed vehicles. The heavy impacts must have spilled the petroleum product and ignited without warning; thus consuming the piled up vehicles and trapped passengers. According to some locals who rushed to the scene while the fire raged, visibility was affected and it was difficult to ascertain who the victims were when people got to the accident scene.

“I can’t give you a total figure of casualties now but what I can tell you is that with two loaded 18-seater buses involved and just about one person rescued so far, no fewer than 30 persons are feared dead in this inferno,” Iyke Obinwa, a local, told our correspondent. Only charred remains could be sighted except for a pregnant woman who was said to have miraculously survived the accident with minor burns.

As at the time of filing this report, men of the Federal Road Safety Corps were already speeding down to the accident scene to see what more could be salvaged from the wreckage.

An official of the FRSC told our correspondent in confidence that the accident scene was in the middle of two communities being Okwudor and Umuaka, near the burrow pit and may take some time for victims to send out distress call, except for intervention of other road users.