

Tanker explosion kills two in Imo

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Tragedy struck along the Owerri-Onitsha Road in Owerri, Imo State yesterday as a tanker laden with Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), exploded and killed two persons.

The incident which happened at Irete, Owerri West Council by Forte Oil filling station, triggered panic, causing many to scamper for safety.

Our correspondent gathered that the driver of the tanker and a woman who was said to be coming back from a nearby market died in the explosion.

Several others were injured with various degrees of burn following the explosion and were rushed to a nearby hospital.

An eyewitness, who identified himself simply as Ebu-

ka, told our correspondent that it was a miracle that nearby buildings and shops in the area were not consumed by the ensuing inferno.

He gave credit to the men of the Fire Service for their timely intervention.

He said: "The incident would have been more disastrous but for the swift response of fire fighters. Their prompt arrival at the explosion scene saved the day.

"It is sad, however, that two lives were lost in the explosion - the driver of the tanker and a woman. Others affected by the inferno have been rushed to a hospital. Nobody saw this coming. It happened in a flash. In an instant, the damage was done.

Police spokesman in the state, Orlando Ikeokwu, confirmed the incident but could not confirm the number of deaths as at press time.



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