

Two die, 3 vehicles burnt in Lagos explosion

Taiwo Jimoh

Two men have reportedly died in a tanker explosion which occurred on Friday night at Ijesha end of the Cele link bridge in Surulere area of Lagos State.

The Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service Director, Margaret Adeseye, disclosed this in a statement on Saturday, adding that firefighters responded swiftly to the distress call to extinguish the fire.

She said: "At approximately 23:12hrs emergency services were alerted to a tanker truck, carrying 33,000 litres of petrol, losing control while navigating the roundabout to ascend the bridge. The

subsequent spillage ignited into a large fire, engulfing the surrounding area.

"Prompt action by the Iso-lo and Bolade Fire Stations of the agency, contained the inferno, preventing further escalation.

"Regrettably, two male individuals were discovered deceased; their bodies tragically burnt beyond recognition and handed over to the Nigeria Police Force, overseeing the necessary procedures. The Lagos State Ambulance Service also provided vital assistance throughout the operation."

Adeseye added that efforts are underway to clear the wreckage of the involved vehicles from the road, to ensure free flow of traffic and to enable inves-

tigative procedures.

Meanwhile, The Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) said they received the distress call at about 11:51 pm.

Dr. Olufemi Damilola Oke-Osanyintolu, Permanent Secretary, LASEMA in a statement on Saturday said upon arrival at the scene, responders found a tanker loaded with diesel had lost control while descending the bridge, fallen sideways, and exploded.

In a Preliminary investigation, it was revealed that the tanker's loss of control was the primary cause of the accident. The impact of the explosion was severe, affecting three PSP trucks parked by the roadside and an oncoming Toyota High-

lander Jeep.

"Tragically, an adult male attempting to escape the explosion became stuck in a gutter and suffered severe burns, while two others died.

"Responders at the scene included the Agency's response team, LRU Fire unit, Lagos State Fire, and LA-SAMBUS. Efforts to combat the inferno were ongoing, with a focus on crowd control and mitigating further damage."

He however said the swift response and coordination among responders prevented further damage and ensured the safety of the surrounding area. While Investigations into the accident's cause are ongoing to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Investigation with Fire Service While