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Five petroleum vandals burnt to death

[National News](#) Jul 15, 2009

By Ola Ajayi

FIVE petroleum vandals who had successfully scooped fuel into a tanker were reportedly burnt to death when their trailer got stuck in the mud during a heavy downpour at Orile-Awo town on Oyo/Ogbomoso road.

According to the Officer-in-Charge of a task force, ASP Femi Okanlawon, the vandals had moved the truck from the scene but due to the heavy downpour, they got stuck in a pot hole. And in their bid to get away with their stolen products, they started discharging the inflammable product into another vehicle. When they did not succeed, they reportedly used a bus loaded with many 25 litre-filled kegs. While doing this, fire suddenly broke out”.

He said, “They had already siphoned the product but when they were about moving out of the NNPC pipeline, they truck got stuck. So, they couldn’t move. They then tried to discharge all the contents of the truck. But all efforts to move the truck proved abortive. Then they resorted into escaping with a bus they had also loaded with 60 kegs of 25 litres capacity. But in the process, the bus also went off inside a flowing river near the spot where they scooped the fuel”.

“Meanwhile, they have discharged the contents of the truck, which was flowing over the river and everywhere. You can imagine discharging the volume of 33, 000 litres of fuel. They tried to push the Urvan bus across the river but they couldn’t until one of them suggested that they should start going. But as one of them entered the vehicle and started the vehicle, there was an explosion”, he stated.

He narrate further that the driver of the vehicle, Abdullahi Olanite, died as a result of the injuries he sustained while two others have been arrested by the Oyo State Police Command.



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