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VANGUARD

Nigeria: Five Killed As Oil Tankers Collide On Lagos-Ibadan Expressway

17 April 2010

Lagos — At least five people were killed and several wounded when two oil tankers collided and burst into flames at Ibafo on the Lagos Ibadan expressway Saturday.

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According to witnesses, the two tankers rammed into each other in heavy rain and exploded. Three big freight trucks along the Lagos-Ibadan expressway also caught fire.

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An AFP photographer saw five bodies burnt beyond recognition and five seriously wounded people pulled out of the inferno before firefighters arrived. An assistant driver from one of the tankers said they were driving from a fuel depot in Lagos, less than 20 kilometres (12 miles) away, when they ran into another tanker while trying to avoid a stationary truck.

"We tried to avoid one stationary truck and ended up crashing into another and there was one big explosion," said a badly burnt Laken Abiodun writhing in pain.

The accident resulted in a traffic gridlock as impatient drivers were taking one-way. Meanwhile the concessionaire handling modernization of Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Bi-Courtney Highway Services Limited, has appealed to motorists to be more careful while driving to avoid carnage on our roads.

The warning came following the accident. According to a statement on by Mr. Lolu Morakinyo of Corporate Communications Department of Bi-Courtney Highway Services Limited, Nigerians must change their driving habits in order to avoid accidents and unnecessary deaths on the highway.

While decrying the traffic manners of most Nigerians, Morakinyo said: "Our traffic manners need to be improved upon."

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