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Oil tanker explosion kills 69 in southern Nigeria

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An oil tanker truck exploded Monday in a bus station in the southern Nigerian state of Anambra, killing at least 69 and wounding dozens of others, Nigerian Red Cross said.

The petrol tanker lost control and exploded at a crowded bus station in Onitsha, the state capital, and started a huge fire that also spread to many other vehicles, including 15 buses.

Victims have been rushed to hospitals for treatment, said a Red Cross staff worker.

State police chief Hosea Karma told Xinhua that the incident was "tragic and unfortunate."

He said the tanker was coming from Oguta Road and was trying to link up with Owerri Road when the driver lost control.

The police chief said the victims inside the buses were burnt beyond recognition.

"Scores of other victims, who were still alive, were immediately rushed to a nearby hospital," he added.

The death toll may rise as some of the injured were being treated for severe burns.