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# Gas tanker explodes near Jaipur; 10 burnt alive

Ten persons were burnt alive and 15 others were injured when a gas tanker caught fire and exploded on Delhi-Ajmer expressway at Beelpur village, 40 kms from Jaipur, on Saturday late night. The explosion was so strong that pieces of the tanker fell on nearby houses. Initially, the people residing near the explosion site thought an earthquake occurred but later they came to know the explosion when they saw high flames rising from the site. The police vacated the nearby houses as precaution.

Superintendent of police Jaipur rural, Nitin Deep Blaggan said the tanker on way from Panipat to Mangalore met with an accident with a motorcycle after which the gas leaked and tanker caught fire. He said this is prima facie cause of the accident but exact cause would be clear after probe. The police have filed a case in this regard and started investigation in the matter, he said.

Blaggan said seven vehicles, five trucks and two cars plying on highway at time of accident, have been burnt in the incident. The accident caused a huge traffic jam on the highway which could be cleared only in the morning. The police are trying to identify those killed in the accident as their bodies were charred beyond recognition.

So far, the police have identified Dakshul, 6, Radha Mohan, 40, and Vinod Kumar, 37, the police said. Among the injured 12 are children.

According to eyewitnesses' statements to the police, the gas tanker suddenly caught fire and it engulfed other vehicles moving near it. The drivers of other vehicles could not understand what happened and lost control over their vehicles, said Radha Mohan Pancholi, who was travelling with his family in his truck.

Meanwhile, seven persons were killed and 30 others injured when the tractor-trolley carrying them overturned in an area on the border of Pali and Rajsamand districts on Saturday evening. Over 45 people were travelling in the tractor-trolley while returning from pilgrimage at Bhairon temple located in Rajsamand when the driver lost control over the vehicles, the police said.

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