

Fuel tanker explosion kills more than 100 people in South Sudan

More than 100 people have died in South Sudan after a crashed fuel tanker exploded, a local government official has confirmed.

At least 100 people had died and a further 50 were injured after a truck carrying fuel exploded in near Maridi town, in the Western Equatoria state, said Charles Kisagna, a local government official.

According to the Independent, dozens of locals began siphoning off fuel from a leaking truck, while the driver was on his way to the village to ask for help after crashing the vehicle.

Reportedly someone lit a cigarette at the scene, sparking off the devastating explosion. Local sources told Radio Tamazuj around 60 people had burned dead on the spot.

The situation was worsened by the lack of medical staff and equipment in the area, with local hospitals totally overwhelmed by the tragic events.

“We don't have medical equipment and these people may not survive because we do not have the facilities to treat the highly burnt people,” said Mr Kisagna.

South Sudan has been impoverished by a 21-month long civil war, with extreme violence and insecurity taking over people's lives.