
Fire is an essential source of heat energy and its use has practically no spatial or temporal limits. As a result, fire accidents are common throughout the world. Therefore, fire safety management is very important. This study was carried out to re-examine fire accidents and incidents in Dar es Salaam City. The study was motivated by the apparent fact that no lessons are currently drawn from past fire accidents for improved fire safety management. Data and information for the study were acquired through review of documentary sources, questionnaire survey among fire safety stakeholders in Dar es Salaam, interviews with Fire and Rescue Force staff consultation with fire safety experts, and field surveys and investigations at scenes of fire incidents. Additional questionnaire surveys were conducted among victims of fire accidents and incidents. This study has revealed that fire incidents are inadequately investigated. Also, the investigations are not mandatory and as a result many fire occurrences are not investigated. Also, for most fire occurrences, causes and influencing factors are never known. As a result, fire incident statistics do not serve to improve fire safety management. On the whole, fire incidents investigation reports do not provide useful data or information for improving fire safety management. This study has also revealed that some categories of premises are more prone to fire occurrences than others. More fire incidents occurred in residential premises than elsewhere. However, most damaging and costliest fire incidents involved commercial premises and industrial premises. It is also apparent from this study that fire safety management in Dar es Salaam city is made more challenging due to high housing densities, unplanned nature and poor road and water infrastructure in many parts of the city. An important conclusion from this study is that successful fire management improvement must be multi-stakeholder and multi-aspect in design and implementation. An important recommendation from this study is that fire occurrences investigation must be improved in terms of both content depth and content breadth.

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