

Assessment of Fire Disaster Preparedness in International Airports in Tanzania: A Case Study of the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA)

This study, titled Assessment of Fire Disaster Preparedness in International Airports in Tanzania. Case study of Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), was undertaken having realized that there were many structural changes to the City of Dar es Salaam with an equal amount of changes in both the construction as well as the operations of JNIA. This would pose new challenges to the management of such disasters as a fire outbreak at the terminals on one hand but also serves as an opportunity to harness the new and improved transport and health services in the city.

The main objective of the study was to assess the level of preparedness against a fire outbreak at JNIA. Specifically, the study aimed at analyzing the baseline preparedness against fire outbreak at JNIA compare this with the established industrial benchmarks so as to identify the gaps, if any, and advise accordingly. Consequently, the study was performed qualitatively through surveys and documents analysis to map out both the baseline requirements at JNIA as well as the industrial standards.

It was henceforth found out that the largest gap was in the flow of information among the stakeholders. Specifically, the information sharing Table – top and partial emergency exercises did not exist, and when done, there was no feedback to those involved in the exercises. In addition, the general public, especially airport passengers who make up to 90% of the airport population, were not routinely informed of the potential hazards and what to do in case of a fire disaster. To conclude, it was suggested that the airport management should take the drills and material auditing exercises seriously as well as disseminate appropriate information to the public.

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