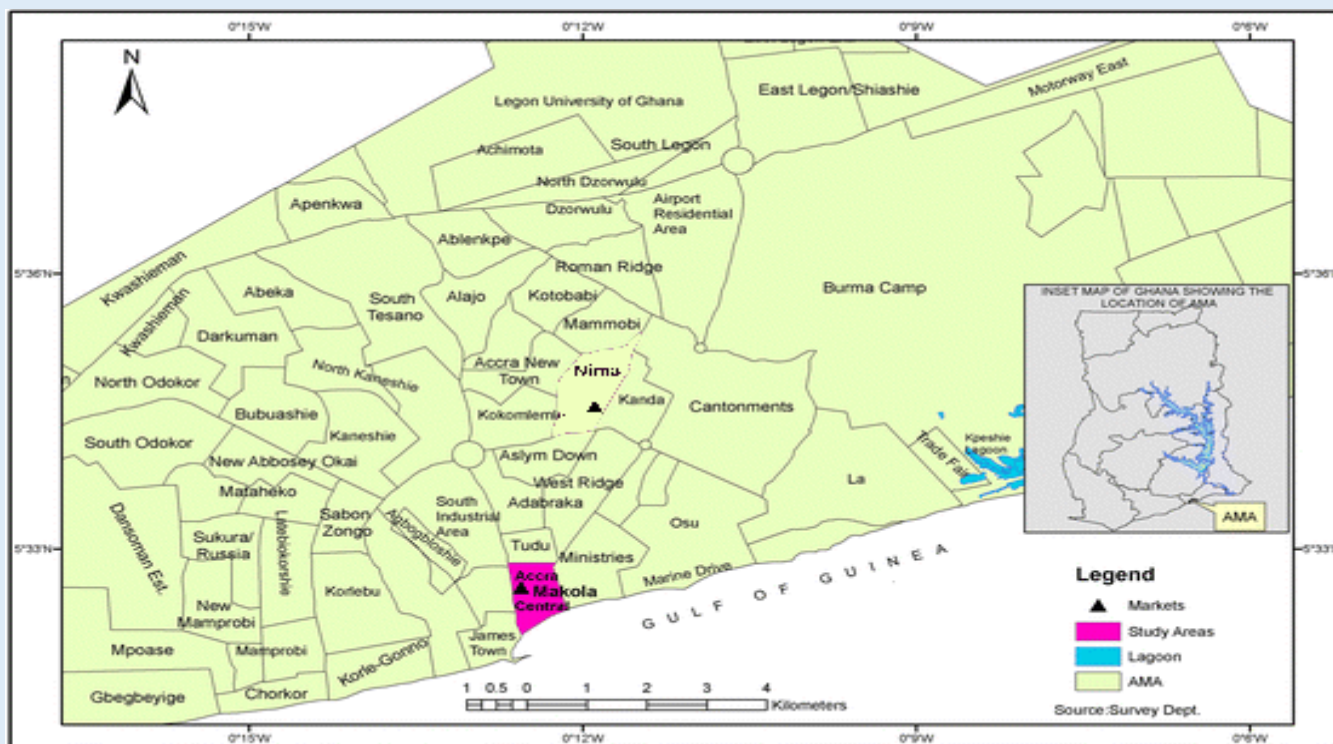


Quick Update of Makola Fire Outbreak
(A Three-Storey Building with Shops Within Burnt)
Monday July 5, 2021

BACKGROUND/ DEMOGRAPHY

Map of the Greater Accra Region



Source: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320363069/figure/fig2/AS:962741548367873@1606546880429/A-map-of-Accra-metropolitan-assembly-showing-Nimaand-Makola-markets-as-the-study-sites.gif>

- ✓ Makola is a suburb in Accra, the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. It houses one of the largest trading centres in Accra, Ghana – the Makola Market, and the premiere campus of the Ghana School of Law.
- ✓ Despite the existence of many other markets and shopping centres, it is the main wholesale and retail marketplace in Accra, the epicentre of trade in the country and one of the nation's most important social and cultural location.
- ✓ Dominated by women traders, the market is occupied with fresh produce, manufactured, locally made and imported goods specialised services which generate millions of Ghana Cedis to the state.
- ✓ Makola has occupied a strategic position in Ghana's political and economic development with thousands of people from far and wide to buy and sell and can be overwhelming for new visitors.

INCIDENT PROFILE

A fire outbreak at the Georgina Stores at Makola in the Central Business District of Accra in the Greater Accra Region has destroyed goods and properties running into millions of Ghana cedis. According to field reports, the incidents started on Monday July 05, 2021 at about 9:15am as a result of an alleged electrical fault on one of the top floors of the building.

The fire took over seven (7) hours to quench by combined personnel from the Ghana National Fire Service and the Ghana Armed Forces involving ten fire tenders. Some of the affected shops served as warehouse for some traders who sold fabrics, toiletries, sanitary products, wigs, weave-on, perfumes and jewelries.

RISKS ANALYSIS:

Fire outbreaks in general have been consistent in the country and therefore remain problematic. This increase in fire outbreaks, especially in city centres is attributable to population growth, industrialization, unstable electricity, urbanization, negligence, illegal electrical connection, among others. The Makola fire outbreak and the subsequent lack of a quick response from the Ghana National Fire Service has led to the destruction of quite the number of property. The situation has increased mistrust in the ability of the Ghana National Fire Service to help them. Most often, the traders do not have fire extinguishers in their shops, much less the needed skills to quench fire. This poses a threat in the event a fire incident occurs.

MECHANISMS FOR INTERVENTIONS:

- A team of the Ghana National Fire Service and military personnel were dispatched to assist with the quenching of the fire.
- There was re-enforcement from the Tema Metropolitan Assembly, of a specialized fire tender that came with a ladder for high-rise buildings.
- Investigations into the cause of the fire have begun.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There is the need to organise capacity building for the market women to improve the knowledge of handling fire outbreaks in general.
- The Ghana National Fire Service has to enforce that every trader gets a fire extinguisher in their shopping centre for immediate response.
- Emergency and evacuation plans should be implemented at the market to prevent further damages if there is a fire.

References:

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