

FIRES & LIGHTNING TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION - 2013

PRESENTED BY: ACFO. NANA BRENYA

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INTRODUCTION

- The Fires & Lightning/Disaster Volunteer Groups Technical Committee of NADMO advises the Secretariat on issues on fires/lightning disaster risk reduction and disaster volunteer groups management.

COMPOSITION OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The composition of the Technical Committee on Fire/Lightning disasters with is as follows:

1. Ghana National Fire Service - Chairman
2. Ministry of Food and Agriculture
3. Meteorological Agency
4. Ghana Police Service
5. Forestry Commission
6. Ghana Water Company
7. Ghana Cocoa Board
8. Tema Oil Refinery
9. Environmental Protection Agency
10. Ministry of Water Resources Works and Housing
11. Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development
12. National Disaster Management Organization
13. Electricity Company of Ghana
14. ICET Ghana

15. Maritime University

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

- The main function of the Committee is to advise the NADMO on Fires & Lightning/DVGs issues for effective and efficient disaster management in the country.
- The Committee assists the secretariat in the development of plans to meet the country's medium and long-term management of fires and monitors programme implementation.
- Set standards for assessment of fires impact in emergency response programmes
- Ensure disaster risk reduction in fires
- Collaborate with other technical committees in the setting up of structures to assist the Secretariat in disaster management and resource mobilisation

DEFINITION OF FIRE

Type of Fires

1. Domestic
2. Commercial /Market Fires
3. Industrial
4. Bush/Wild/Ecological

**STATISTICS OF FIRE OUTBREAKS BY NADMO
FROM 2009 TO SEPTEMBER, 2013**

FIRE OUTBREAKS	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Domestic	1,241	1,066	379	1,663	285
Industrial	91	83	48	133	32
Commercial/Market	283	268	133	345	65
Vehicular	-	-	-	-	12
Bushfires	355	299	73	503	84
Crop Acreages	-	-	-	-	3,339
Injured	56	57	73	106	29
Death	56	20	12	54	15
Cost Of Damage	6,988,292.52	359,982,095.75	1,613,814.08	9,596,905.00	15,164,792.00 (GH¢)

STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING FIRE THREATS

- Awareness Creation

NADMO and its stakeholders seek to educate the general public on preventive mechanisms, the culture of maintenance of the environment, equipment and gadgets installation that are capable of causing fires.

- Legislation and its Enforcement

This is another way of reducing the risk of fire disaster. People would be more responsible when using fire as tools to farm, harvest honey etc. because of the penalties associated with noncompliance.

- Contingency Arrangement

For dealing with unexpected fires and even predicting their occurrence are all ways of reducing the risk of Fire disaster. Identified and listing of areas according to ecological/geographical locations and their degree of vulnerability to fires enable NADMO and

its stakeholders put in place appropriate mechanism to prevent or contain fire disaster in the various ecological zones. The mechanisms may vary from area to area.

- **Early Warning Mechanism**

Is put in place to warn communities about the likelihood of fires to allow the people in the communities to make the necessary preparations needed to stop it or cope when it breaks out. This may involve using alarm systems and warning gadgets in industrial, commercial or domestic setting. In the case of ecological fires you may use indicators from the Meteorological Department since ecological fires are usually weather and climate driven.

TYPES OF DVGs

1. Community-Based Disaster Volunteer Groups
2. School Disaster Prevention Clubs
3. Journalists Disaster Volunteer Clubs

NADMO has established 3,096 DVGs in the country with a total membership of sixty-three thousand one hundred and sixty-nine (63,169). It hopes to establish at least one DVG in all vulnerable communities in the country.

DVGs DISTRIBUTION

REGION	NO. OF DVGs	NUMERICAL STRENGTH
GREATER ACCRA	217	5,177
ASHANTI	585	12,945
BRONG AHAFO	172	3,944
CENTRAL	102	1,281
EASTERN	123	4,567
NORTHERN	469	8,459
UPPER EAST	228	2,499
UPPER WEST	324	6,718
VOLTA	698	13,998
WESTERN	178	4,581
TOTAL	3,096	63,169

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS OF DVGs

- **FAO's Project**

In 2003, 2,250 members of DVGs in seven (7) Regions cultivated 1,000 hectares of maize, pepper, tomatoes and onions as part of FAO Emergency Agricultural Inputs Supply project designed to assist Ghanaian returnees from Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast. Under the project, cutlasses, hoes, vegetable seeds, agro-chemicals, fertilizers and knapsacks were supplied to the beneficiaries.

- **Atiwa Forest Incident.**

In 2002, an Airforce helicopter crashed in Atiwa Forest in the Eastern Region. For about two weeks the helicopter could not be located. The Eastern Regional Co-ordinator organised the DVGs to assist in the search and rescue operation and contributed a lot in locating the crashed aircraft

Army-Worm Invasion

Army-worm invaded the three (3) Northern Regions in 2001. The various DVGs were organised to combat this invasion. A mass spraying exercise was undertaken by NADMO and the DVGs with technical assistance and direction from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) to bring the situation under control.

- Caterpillar Invasion

In 2003, caterpillar invaded South Tongu in the Volta Region. NADMO's DVGs in the area were organised to spray these caterpillars with technical support from the Ministry of Agriculture and brought the situation under control.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Risk Assessment
2. Hazard Mapping
3. Emergency Response
4. Preparation of SOP for fires, Basic Training Manual for DVGs
5. Participation in Awareness creation and Public Education
6. Organisation and Launching of Anti-bushfire Campaign

CHALLENGES

- Rampant market and domestic fires
- Lack of water for firefighting due to lack of water hydrants
- Lack of utility vehicles
- Until recently lack of fire engines
- Registering the Private Water Tanker Operators
- Organising National Anti-Bushfire Campaign
- Resourcing of DVGs

THE WAY FORWARD

- Creating of a culture of fire safety in the entire populace.
- Reducing losses to the national economy due to preventable fire outbreaks hence, help to advance national development.

CONCLUSION

- Fire management should be taken seriously in the communities as fires cause destruction to lives and property.

It is our hope that the DVGs will be adequately resourced to enable them to improve on their living standards and disaster prevention.