



REPORT

ATOMIC JUNCTION GAS EXPLOSION



BY NADMO

DECEMBER, 2017

FOREWORD

Disasters exert enormous toll on the development of a nation. Ghana has unfortunately experienced a number of disasters over the years with attendant loss of lives and destruction to infrastructure and other properties. One such example is the Atomic Junction gas explosion which occurred on 7th October, 2017.

I appreciate the dedication and efforts of all responders and agencies who were involved in the rescue operations to save lives and property.

NADMO deems it important to conduct a research into the incident. This is premised on the belief that the findings and recommendations will be integrated into future plans and policies towards building the nation's resilience.

Hon. Eric Nana Agyemang-Prempeh

Director-General of NADMO

DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to all the victims of the Atomic junction gas explosion, and also to the collaborating institutions of NADMO who professionally worked tirelessly to manage the unfortunate emergency.



The Ghana National Fire Service dousing fire with foam at the Atomic Gas Explosion site.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Atomic Junction gas explosion which occurred on the 7th October, 2017 caused widespread destruction of properties and also affected many residents in the environs. The explosion emanated from the Mansco Filling Station which was owned by one Mr. George Owusu. The cause of the explosion was due to the non-adherence to standard safety procedures resulting in fuel leakage due to a burst hoarse during the course of discharge. The leaked fuel was suspected to have come into contact with a naked flame at the filling station at around 7pm on the fateful day.

The leakage was detected by the officials who were manning the station. When they could not bring the situation under control, they fled from the scene raising alarm of the incident for people to evacuate from the area. The fire caused widespread damage in the area affecting a nearby Total Filling Station which shared wall with Mansco. Student hostels, and houses close to the explosion scene, were also affected. The explosion claimed 7 lives and about 192 people sustained various degrees of injuries.

The National Disaster Management Organization was there to coordinate and also help in the rescuing of victims while Ghana National Fire Service being the lead agency played a key role to put off the fire. The Ghana Police Service cordoned the scene to help other agencies execute their work. They also protected and arrested people who took advantage of the situation to loot the wares of traders who had fled the scene, and abandoned their wares. The National Ambulance Service was also present to convey victims to various health facilities such as the 37 Military Hospital, Police Hospital, Ridge Hospital, University of Ghana Hospital, Pentecost Hospitals, Kekele Hospital and the Madina Polyclinic. There were some private health personnel who also provided counseling to students in the hostels that were affected and non-students after the incident was brought to normalcy.

The total estimated cost of destruction of property as a result of the gas explosion was One Million Five-Hundred and Three Thousand Ten Cedis (GH¢1,503,010).

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