

NEWSCLIPPINGS

JULY TO DECEMBER 2025

HUTS ON FIRE



Urban Resource Centre

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Shershah warehouse reduced to ashes

A huge fire erupted in a warehouse in Shershah early on Tuesday morning was put out by firefighters. No one was hurt in the incident.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan UI Haseeb Khan told Dawn that the fire erupted in the scrapyard at around 2am. He said initially four fire tenders were sent, but later on more fire tenders were called in due to severity of the blaze.

He said by the time the rescue teams reached the spot, the fire had engulfed almost the whole warehouse.

Eight fire tenders took part in firefighting. Cooling process is said to be underway.

The official said that used containers of oil, iron, used tyres, etc, were kept in the warehouse. The security guard of the compound told them that the fire had erupted in the guard room due to a short circuit.

However, Mr Khan said they could not verify the claim. He said the fire had engulfed the scrapyard up to 99 per cent.

He said since the fire broke out at night, the fire department faced difficulties in getting in touch with officials of Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation for ensuring uninterrupted supply of water bowsers.

'Thief' shot dead by guard

A suspected thief was killed in the SITE area on Tuesday evening, police said.

The SITE-B police said that three men, believed to be drug addicts, entered a company premises with the intent to steal valuables. A security guard attempted to stop them, but the suspects attacked him with sharp-edged weapons.

(By Imran Ayub Dawn, 13, 09/07/2025)

Fire hazards

CONSIDERING the widespread lack of public awareness regarding fire safety, poor response mechanisms and the absence of adequate protective equipment, urban spaces across Pakistan have turned into tinderboxes. At least eight people were injured after a blaze broke out at a factory in Karachi's Landhi Export Processing Zone on Thursday. Thankfully, there was no loss of life. Rescue officials told the media that it is likely the workers were injured after they had been forced by the management to salvage goods from the burning building. They also pointed out that firefighters faced issues battling the blaze due to lack of proper water supply, while fire tenders from several different departments had to be called in to deal with the situation. Such fire hazards are becoming common in our cities. Last month there was a major blaze at Lahore's Hafeez Centre, while Pakistan's worst fire incident was the 2012 Baldia factory inferno in Karachi. Though the latter disaster was caused by deliberate arson, matters were exacerbated by the fact that many exits were either locked or blocked. Clearly, safety measures at many factories continue to be poor.

As per official figures, the Karachi fire department received nearly 3,000 distress calls last year. It is also a matter of great concern that, according to experts, around 70pc of the city's buildings lack proper fire safety mechanisms. As our cities grow denser, and develop vertically, there is a dire need for proper safety protocols to be installed in residential, commercial and industrial buildings in order to prevent tragedy. No new building should be constructed unless it has proper fire escapes and a firefighting system. Moreover, fire drills are needed at the school level, while apartment dwellers and those working in factories and offices must be aware of where the closest exits are located. Provision of better equipment and coordination between fire and rescue services is also a must to prevent fatalities in emergency situations.

(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 11/08/2025)

Man dies, two hurt in petrol pump fire in Karachi's Malir

A man was killed and two others sustained critical burn injuries when a fire broke out at a petrol pump in Malir on Tuesday afternoon, rescue services officials said.

Rescue 1122 spokesperson Hassaan UI Haseeb Khan told *Dawn* that the blaze, suspected to have been caused by a short circuit, erupted at around 3:48pm at the petrol pump in the Malir-15 area.

He said all three victims suffered severe burn injuries and were rushed to a hospital, where one of them died. The other two remain in critical condition.

Rescue 1122's Command and Control Centre responded promptly and deployed the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation fire trucks from a nearby station. Mr Khan added that four fire tenders were actively engaged in the firefighting operation, which was still underway at the time of reporting.

He further said that both the petrol pump staff and Malir SSP Abdul Khaliq Pirzada informed the rescue team that an electrical short circuit had triggered the fire.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 20/08/2025)

Fire brings down factory

A devastating fire ripped through a garment factory in the New Karachi Industrial Area early Tuesday morning, causing the multi-storey structure to collapse and leaving five people injured, including a senior officer of the KMC Fire Brigade. The blaze quickly spread to two nearby factories, causing financial losses estimated in the tens of millions of rupees.

The affected factory, Al-Zaib Garments, was located near Saadat Hotel in Sector 8. The fire reportedly erupted on the ground floor and quickly engulfed the upper levels of the ground-plus-two-storey building. Flames shot high into the sky, accompanied by thick plumes of black smoke visible from miles away.

The intensity of the inferno led to the flames spreading to two adjacent industrial units — the Gujarat Yarn Dyeing Factory and Double A Enterprises Towel Factory, situated behind Al-Zaib Garments. Firefighters from KMC and Rescue 1122 worked for hours to douse the blaze.

According to officials, more than 15 fire tenders, along with a snorkel and water bowsers, were deployed to battle the conflagration. Despite their efforts, at around 11:30 am, the garment factory collapsed with a loud explosion, sending shockwaves through the industrial area and triggering panic among workers and onlookers.

Five people were injured in the collapse, including Buland Iqbal, Fire Station Officer, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Hawaldar Ismail, Aslam, Owais, Zeeshan Marghoob, a cameraman from a private news channel. All injured were rescued from the debris and rushed to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital via Chhipa Ambulance. Their condition is stated to be out of danger.

Speaking to The Express Tribune, Chief Fire Officer Humayun Khan confirmed that the fire broke out before 7am. Although the fire in the two adjacent factories was brought under control relatively quickly, small pockets of fire remain buried under the debris of the collapsed building and are being extinguished manually.

"We have deployed nine fire tenders, two bowsers, and one snorkel. Cracks have appeared in the structures of the adjacent factories, making them unsafe. Cooling efforts may take another two to three days," he added.

The SBCA is expected to inspect the structural integrity of the affected factories, while the cause of the fire and a comprehensive damage assessment will be detailed in the final report.

In a statement, Rescue 1122 confirmed that their team, along with one ambulance and five fire trucks, reached the location immediately after receiving the alert. The site was soon swarming with emergency responders and district officials. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 10/09/2025)

Four firefighters injured as huge blaze destroys garment factory

Four firefighters and a camera person of a private news channel were injured in a huge blaze that destroyed a three-storey garment factory in New Karachi Industrial Area on Tuesday, police and rescue services officials said.

They said that the fire erupted in the morning, which was controlled after eight hours by around 20 fire tenders. However, cooling work continued till late in the evening.

The officials said that the fire also engulfed two other adjacent factories as well.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi told Dawn that the fire started in a garment factory near Saba Cinema. He said the presence of diesel drums compounded the blaze, which spread and engulfed two more industrial units in the vicinity.

He said the factory building, where the fire erupted, collapsed resulting in injuries to four firefighters and one cameraperson of a private TV channel, covering the incident.

Three-storey building in New Karachi Industrial Area collapses

Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed told Dawn that the condition of a fireman, identified as Owais, was critical as he sustained 64pc burns.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan told Dawn that Owais is their rescue team member.

He said they received information about the fire inside the factory at around 7am. The fire spread rapidly because of the presence of inflammable material, diesel and raw material. A gas pipeline was also passing through it, where an explosion occurred.

He said due to the impact of the fire, the ground-plus three storey factory collapsed and fell down on the firefighters.

He said the fire has weakened the structure of the adjacent thread factory as its building, also ground-plus three, had developed cracks and they have declared it a dilapidated building.

Mr Khan said 20 fire tenders of the KMC Fire Brigade and Rescue-1122 managed to control the fire at around 3pm. However, the cooling process continued.

Regarding the possible cause of the fire, Mr Khan said that the factory management told the firemen that a short circuit caused the fire.

He said over the past one month, 50 fire incidents, including some major ones, had occurred in the metropolis. Around 12 to 13 of the fires occurred in factories or industrial units.

He said it had been observed that a major factor behind the incidents in factories is their poor electrical systems.

Besides, the electrical system was overloaded, as the factory management operated heavy machinery on it. This caused the system to overheat, resulting in a short-circuit failure.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 10/09/2025)

Baldia factory fire victims remembered on 13th anniversary

As they have done every year since 2012, victims' families and workers' representatives gathered again to share their pain while marking the 13th anniversary of the Baldia factory fire tragedy on Thursday.

The gathering was of the view that the terrible incident, which saw 260 lives lost, had taught no lessons. They condemned the exploitation of workers which still goes on at workplaces, especially in garment factories. They lit candles and renewed their pledge to continue the struggle to make workplaces safer for workers and to resist the tyranny of capitalism.

Hasna Khatoon, chairperson of the Baldia Factory Fire Affectees Association, said that the factory building was demolished by the owners with the "blessing" of the government in order to "erase" the living symbol of the tragedy. "However, the most horrific event in the region's industrial history would not be erased from workers' consciousness. The tragedy and the blood of the martyrs would continue to inspire workers to fight for their rights until final victory," she said.

Nasir Mansoor, secretary general of the National Trade Union Federation Pakistan, said that the tragedy was a reminder of the bitter truth that capitalists, whether local or international, value profits more than workers' lives.

Families, workers' bodies vow to continue struggle for justice

"The inhumane treatment and extremely unsafe working environment in factories remain a pressing issue to this day. Every year, thousands of workers are killed and injured at workplaces. Not a single day passes without an industrial accident," he said.

He further said that national labour laws, international labour conventions, global protocols on labour and human rights, bilateral global framework agreements, as well as international and Pakistan accords, despite claiming to protect workers, have so far failed to improve working and living conditions for workers.

He strongly criticised the International Labour Organisation Pakistan office for "handing over" \$6.1 million, paid by German brand KiK as long-term compensation for the victims' families, to a private insurance company without consultation with the affectees' association or workers' representatives. He said that the ILO, displaying colonial arrogance, continued to deny sharing the agreement with the victims' families and trade unions despite repeated demands, in a blatant violation of the ILO's principles of transparency and consultation.

Mr Mansoor warned that if the ILO did not abandon its anti-worker stance, the families would set up a protest camp in front of the ILO head office in Islamabad.

Riaz Abbasi, head of the SITE Labour Forum, said that government institutions responsible for implementing labour laws had become "front men of employers", "tasked with suppressing workers". The right to unionisation has been snatched away. The Labour Department, Social Security Institute, Employees Old Age Benefits Institution (EOBI), Workers Welfare Board and other institutions have become "paralysed", serving as hubs of "corruption and mismanagement".

Zehra Khan, general secretary of the Home-Based Women Workers Federation and co-chairperson of the IndustriALL Global Union-Textile Garments Sector, said that under the "guise" of the Sindh Labour Code, a "suicidal attack" had been carried out on workers' rights.

"The PPP government, instead of upholding labour laws introduced by its martyred founder, Chairman Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, is bent on imposing the exploitative contract system," she said, adding that the "anti-worker conspiracy" carried out under the ILO's guidance in the name of the Sindh Labour Code would be strongly resisted.

She further said that international brands sourcing textile and garment products from Pakistan were silent spectators to blatant labour rights violations in their supply chains, particularly union-busting and harassment of women workers.

She noted that in one factory in Karachi's SITE area, workers attempting to form a union had been "threatened with murder on the instructions of the owners". "Such incidents must be taken up urgently at both the local and international levels," she said.

The gathering also put forward demands, which included an apology from KiK to the Baldia fire victims' families and measures to ensure that labour law violations in its supply chain factories in Pakistan are stopped, a permanent memorial to be built in honour of the Baldia fire martyrs, and the establishment of an institution to raise awareness on health, safety and labour rights laws on the premises of Ali Enterprises.

Gul Rehman of the Workers Rights Movement, Shehzad Hussain Mughal from Alternate, Nadrat Buland Iqbal of Shehri Awami Mahaz and Mohammad Siddiq, general secretary of the Baldia Factory Fire Affectees Association, also spoke.
(By Shazia Hasan Dawn, 13, 12/09/2025)

Two women die, nine hurt in DHA building fire in Karachi

Two women died and nine other people were rescued in a fire that erupted in a four-storey building in Defence Housing Authority on Saturday evening, officials said.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan told *Dawn* that the fire erupted in a car showroom situated on the ground floor of the residential-cum-commercial building in Phase-II and spread rapidly to other floors.

He said six fire tenders rushed to the scene and managed to control the blaze. However, cooling work continued till late in the night.

The official said that with the help of a ladder, firemen broke windows and rescued eight residents, including women, and three workers of the showroom and shifted them to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) and the burns centre of the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that two women — identified as Syeda Shahzain Afzal, 43, and her mother-in-law Syeda Sabiha Khatoon, 70 — died during treatment at the JPMC.

The officials said that the two women, who lived in the same building, died of suffocation.

Among the injured are Syed Afaq Ali, his wife, Rafia, and their three children — Shanza, Savera and Abeeha. Their condition was said to be out of danger.

The Rescue 1122 spokesperson said the probable cause of the fire was a short circuit.

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah took notice of the incident and ordered an inquiry. He also directed authorities to ensure strict implementation of fire safety arrangements in buildings.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 28/09/2025)

Questions mount over city's fire preparedness

City planners, fire experts, emergency responders, disaster management authorities and rescue officials on Wednesday raised serious concerns over the deteriorating state of fire preparedness in the metropolis.

They regretted that despite the passage of time and frequent fire incidents, little has changed on the ground — from delayed enforcement of building safety codes to a severe shortage of functional fire stations across the city.

Speaking at the third National Fire Safety Conference and Risk-Based Award Ceremony organised by the Fire Protection Association (FPA) at a local hotel, the speakers were convinced that Karachi continues to grapple with an outdated and under-resourced fire safety infrastructure, placing millions of lives and billions of rupees worth property at constant risk.

They urged the authorities to take immediate action to align Karachi's disaster preparedness and fire safety systems with international standards, warning that the current state leaves the city dangerously exposed to large-scale emergencies.

Dr Abid Jalaluddin Shaikh, Director General of the Sindh Emergency Rescue Service 1122, admitted that while their teams are quick to respond once alerted, systemic coordination failures and jurisdictional overlaps between various agencies hamper effective prevention and preparedness.

"We are exactly where we stood last year," he remarked, stressing the need for a unified chain of command to implement building codes and emergency protocols.

"There should be one authority overseeing implementation," Dr Shaikh urged, advocating for centralised control to streamline fire safety governance and eliminate administrative hurdles that often delay life-saving action.

Karachi's Chief Fire Officer, Humayun Khan, painted a grim picture of the city's firefighting capacity, saying that despite some improvements, the system remains critically under-resourced. He noted that the city has only 28 fire stations, which is alarmingly insufficient for a population of over 20 million.

"There should be at least one fire centre for every 100,000 people," he said, adding that existing facilities, many of which date back to post-Partition times, are outdated and stretched beyond their limits.

Highlighting on-ground challenges during emergencies, Mr Khan recalled November 2023 fire incident at RJ Mall that had killed 11 people where fire services responded promptly at 6am, but encountered major hurdles.

"The biggest problem we face is the lack of accurate information and proper guidance at the site," he said.

"The people and building managers should assist in clearing routes for fire trucks and to avoid parking near access points. Our response time is just one to one-and-a-half minutes, but if roads are blocked or buildings have no safety systems, even that isn't enough."

He also shared alarming findings from a recent inspection initiated by Mayor Murtaza Wahab, which surveyed 266 buildings on Sharea Faisal. The results, he said, were deeply troubling.

"Out of 266 buildings, only 17 or 18 had proper fire safety arrangements. The rest either had inadequate systems or none at all," he said stressing that such negligence, particularly in high-rise and commercial buildings, puts both occupants and emergency responders at grave risk.

Kunwar Wasim, President of the Fire Protection Association, warned that hundreds of buildings across Karachi had been officially declared dangerous and could collapse if a fire breaks out.

"SBCA has already declared over 500 buildings as structurally unsafe," he said, adding that many of these are located in densely populated areas.

He stressed that recent incidents in Karachi have shown how fire can lead to not only destruction, but also the complete collapse of old and fragile structures.

International fire safety experts attending the conference also echoed Mr Waseem's concerns, particularly pointing out that faulty electrical wiring is responsible for the majority of urban fire incidents.

"If we can just fix the tangled and hazardous power cables, 80 per cent of fire incidents can be prevented," Mr Waseem said.

He also referred to a number of gas cylinder-related blasts, calling for a nationwide shift in strategy.

"Instead of focusing only on firefighting, we must move towards fire prevention and public awareness — especially in schools, colleges, and universities," he added.

In his address, the chief guest of the occasion, Association of Builders and Developers Chairman Hassan Bakshi, said that No Objection Certificates should not be issued for high-rise buildings where construction was carried out without adherence to building safety codes.

He emphasised the importance of enforcing safety standards during all phases of construction to prevent future hazards.

"Currently, around 50 high-rise buildings are under construction in the Clifton area alone," he said. "Strict compliance with building safety codes is essential during their development. ABAD is willing to work alongside the Fire Protection Association to ensure the implementation of these safety regulations. He urged the government to step forward and play its role in this vital matter." (By Imran Ayub Dawn, 13, 09/10/2025)

Two children among five injured in candle factory fire in Karachi

Five persons, including two children, suffered burns in a huge fire that erupted in a candle factory in the Sher Shah area on Wednesday evening and destroyed the industrial unit as well as two nearby warehouses and four residential properties, officials said.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that the fire broke out in the candle manufacturing factory located on Jinnah Road and spread rapidly to nearby properties.

Industrial unit, two adjacent godowns and four houses gutted

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan said 10 fire tenders managed to control the blaze after several hours. He said the cooling work continued till late at night.

He said the factory, four nearby houses and two warehouses were completely destroyed in the fire.

He said that five persons suffered burns and a sixth one was hit by falling structure.

He said a charged crowd gathered at the scene as residents were trying to take their valuables out of the houses.

He said the exact cause of the inferno was yet to be known. However, a factory employee told firemen that the blaze started because of short circuit.

Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed told *Dawn* that Sakina, 35, and her husband Sher Mohammed, 40, Rehmat Taj, 35, Umm-i-Habiba, 5, and her younger brother, Wali Mohammed, 3, were brought to the Burns Centre of the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi for treatment.

"They all are stable," she said.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 16/10/2025)

Fire breaks out in Clifton hospital

A fire broke out at a private hospital in Clifton, police and rescue services officials said on Saturday.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza said that the blaze erupted in the basement of Ziauddin Hospital and was controlled immediately.

He said it was a minor incident, adding that the causes behind it were being ascertained.

However, Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan told Dawn that ostensibly, the fire erupted due to a short circuit failure. He said there was no proper ventilation system inside the basement, owing to which the smoke accumulated, causing immense difficulties for the firemen. He said that a timely response prevented any major material loss. Two fire tenders managed to extinguish it.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 19/10/2025)

4 boats destroyed in fire at Karachi Fisheries

Four large boats were damaged in a fire at Fisheries on Sunday, rescue services officials said.

No casualties were reported in the incident.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan told *Dawn* that the boats were damaged after a fire erupted at the Fisheries.

The blaze spread rapidly due to wooden material on board, engulfing three other vessels.

He said six fire tenders managed to extinguish the flames after several hours of hectic efforts.

Two boats were completely gutted, while two others sustained significant damage.

The officials said that the fire broke out ostensibly when someone smoked a cigarette on one of the launches.

Two warehouses gutted in separate incidents

Two separate fire incidents in warehouses in different parts of the city caused significant losses to property, though no casualties were reported, according to rescue officials.

Spokesperson Khan said a huge fire erupted in a warehouse on Hub River Road in the Moachko area on the outskirts of the city on Sunday evening.

He said it was a shared warehouse of wooden furniture and Santex Products — a manufacturer of sanitary pads — which contained wooden items and raw material used for producing hygiene products.

He added that the fire spread rapidly, engulfing the entire warehouse. Eight fire tenders were engaged in extinguishing the blaze. However, till late Sunday night, the fire had not been brought under control.

In another incident, a shoe warehouse was gutted in a fire in Baldia Town.

The rescue services official said it was likely triggered by a short circuit. Four fire tenders took part in the operation to control the blaze, he added.

The warehouse was substantially damaged in the fire. No injury to human beings was reported.

Separately, a man and his child suffered minor burns when an LPG cylinder exploded inside a flat in Ranchore Line, the spokesperson added.

Stray bullet kills boy

An eight-year-old boy was killed in Orangi Town on Sunday evening, police said.

Mominabad SHO Meraj Anwar said that Rizwan Rehman was playing outside his home in Faqeer Colony near Abdullah Masjid when a stray bullet hit him in the head. He died on the spot.

The body was shifted to Civil Hospital Karachi for legal formalities.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 27/10/2025)

28 people rescued after huge fire in Railway Colony

Around 28 persons were rescued on Monday when a huge fire erupted in Railway Colony, Clifton, and caused substantial damage to eight houses.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan said that a short circuit failure had triggered blaze in a house made of wooden material in the railway colony. It spread rapidly and engulfed seven other houses.

Three fire tenders, including one of the Pakistan Railways, controlled the fire.

The officer said that through timely action, 28 persons, including women and children, were rescued safely. However, an aged woman who suffered difficulties in breathing was provided first aid on the spot.

Warehouse fire controlled after hectic efforts

A huge fire that erupted in a warehouse on Sunday evening was controlled by over half a dozen fire tenders after hectic efforts lasting for 18 hours.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan told Dawn that the fire had erupted in the combined warehouse of around four to five factories located on Hub River Road near Rais Goth in Moachko at around 7:30pm on Sunday.

He said eight fire tenders managed to extinguish the fire on Monday, but the cooling work continued till evening. The officer said that ostensibly a short circuit had caused the fire. The warehouse, spread over 3000 square yards, was completely destroyed. Mr Khan said that combustible material like wooden stuff and raw material for manufacturing hygiene products were stored there, causing the rapid spread of the fire and making it difficult to control it.

Man shot dead in Sohrab Goth

A young man was gunned down in Sohrab Goth on Monday, police said.

They added that Zareen Khan, 35, was passing through a graveyard near Al-Asif Square when unidentified suspects shot and killed him. The police suspected some personal enmity behind the incident. The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 28/10/2025)

Fire near Karachi University contained; rescue teams recover one body

A fire that broke out in the bushes behind the University of Karachi on Tuesday evening intensified rapidly before being brought under control after several hours of firefighting. One person died from suffocation during the incident, rescue officials said. The victim, identified as 51-year-old Muhammad Rafiq, was a father of four and worked as a welder, according to initial reports.

According to Rescue 1122, the fire erupted near Gulshan Noor Apartments behind the university. Fire and rescue teams, along with ambulances and fire tenders, reached the site and began efforts to extinguish the blaze. Dry weather and strong winds caused the flames to spread quickly across the open area, while smoke entered nearby residential buildings, creating difficulties for residents.

Some staff quarters sustained partial damage, and the fire also affected areas near a nearby graveyard. The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) Fire Brigade dispatched additional vehicles, including nine fire tenders and three water bowsers, to control the fire from multiple directions. Cooling operations continued late into the night to prevent reignition due to winds.

During a search operation after the fire was contained, rescue workers recovered the body of a 51-year-old man, identified as Muhammad Rafiq, who had died of suffocation. His body was shifted to a hospital with the help of Chhipa volunteers for necessary legal procedures.

Rescue officials said Rafiq was living in a makeshift shelter located outside the boundary wall of the University of Karachi. He is believed to have died from suffocation during the fire that broke out in the bushes behind the university. Police confirmed that an investigation is underway to determine the exact circumstances of his death and to verify whether the shelter was within the affected area of the blaze.

A security adviser at the University of Karachi said that all departments remained safe. Fire officials confirmed that several makeshift shelters near the affected bushes were evacuated as a precaution.

In a separate incident, a fire broke out at a scrap yard near Bhai Jan Chowk in Korangi's Sector 33-C. Rescue 1122 teams reached the site and managed to control the blaze after a sustained effort. Various types of stored materials were destroyed, while the cause of the fire and the estimated losses have yet to be determined.

(By Munawwar Khan The Express Tribune, 04, 29/10/2025)

Differently-abled man dies in Shanti Nagar fire

A physically-challenged man was burnt to death in a fire that destroyed over 20 informal housing units in Shanti Nagar, Gulshan-i-Iqbal, on Thursday.

The Aziz Bhatti police identified the victim as Ayub, 40.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan told Dawn that the deceased was a physically-challenged person.

He said the fire also destroyed over 20 informal houses in the settlement. One underage girl who became stuck in the fire was rescued by firemen.

The rescue service spokesperson added that they faced difficulty in getting access to the area. Three fire tenders were sent to douse the flames, but only the small vehicle managed to reach the scene due to narrow access.

He said the fire may have started from cooking or cigarette use.

Fire in warehouse still raging

A huge fire that erupted in a tyre warehouse at 2pm in the Moachko area remained uncontrolled till late at night.

The Rescue 1122 spokesperson told Dawn that 10 fire tenders were sent to control the blaze, but it was still raging.

He opined that the fire might not be brought under control until all the tyres were reduced to ashes.

He explained that since rubber and tyres contain toxic particles, the smoke emanating from them was causing breathing problems for the firemen due to prolonged exposure.

Meanwhile, in another incident, a blaze destroyed a food processing unit in Ahsanabad.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 31/10/2025)

Massive fire ravages 200 huts in Karachi's Gulistan-e-Jauhar

A massive fire broke out in the early hours of Sunday in Gulistan-e-Jauhar's Block 12 near Munawar Chowranghi, reducing more than 200 huts to ashes along with personal belongings, motorcycles, and livestock. Fortunately, no human lives were lost.

According to fire officials, the blaze was likely caused by a short circuit during the removal of illegal electricity connections. However, an investigation is under way. The fire erupted between Saturday night and Sunday morning, prompting a swift response from four Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) fire brigade vehicles and three Rescue 1122 tenders.

Due to the intensity of the flames and a shortage of water, additional support was provided by KMC water bowsers and tankers. Firefighters battled the blaze for over two hours, finally bringing it under control around 2:30am. Cooling operations were delayed until 5:30am when water supply resumed.

The affected plot housed roughly 500 huts, of which more than 200 were completely destroyed. Residents reported losing motorcycles and livestock, including goats, sheep, cats, and other animals. Many said the fire erupted while they were asleep, leaving them with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

Most residents have lived on the plot for over a decade, earning their livelihood through daily labour. Many hail from Punjab and Balochistan. Victims described the fire as a devastating blow, saying their life savings had been wiped out. They appealed to the Sindh government and philanthropists for urgent relief and assistance.

"We ran out in panic with nothing but the clothes we were wearing. Now we have nothing to wear, nothing to cover ourselves with," said one resident.

The fire brigade team remained on site for several hours before concluding operations. The blaze has left hundreds displaced and in immediate need of shelter and support.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 03/11/2025)

Over 300 huts gutted in blaze at Karachi's Gulistan-i-Jauhar

Over 300 huts, along with animals and other valuables, were destroyed when a huge fire erupted in Gulistan-i-Jauhar on Sunday morning, rescue service officials said.

They added that no human was injured in the fire.

Rescue 1122 spokesperson Hassaan-ul-Haseeb Khan told Dawn that an estimated 500 huts were located near Munawar Chowranghi in Block-12, where the fire broke out.

"After receiving information through the Command and Control System, we dispatched fire tenders and rescue teams," he added. Four fire tenders managed to control the blaze after hectic efforts lasting for four hours.

Over 300 huts, goats, motorcycles and sewing machines were also destroyed in the fire.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 03/11/2025)

70 makeshift shops gutted in Lighthouse blaze

At least 70 makeshift stalls were reduced to ashes when a massive fire swept through a flea market along a stormwater drain near Lady Dufferin Hospital in the Lighthouse area on Thursday. No casualties were reported, though the damage to property was significant.

The fire erupted suddenly among the temporary vendor setups, within the jurisdiction of Kharadar police station. The flames spread rapidly, engulfing dozens of stalls. Police, fire brigade, and rescue teams rushed to the site to contain the blaze.

As the fire continued to spread, more fire tenders were called in, and a full-scale firefighting operation was launched. Rescue 1122 and the KMC Fire Brigade deployed additional vehicles to assist in the operation. After about 45 minutes of continuous effort, the fire was finally brought under control.

The blaze destroyed over 70 stalls and pushcarts, many of which contained winter clothing such as sweaters, jackets, mufflers, blankets, socks, shoes, and slippers. The affected vendors reported substantial financial losses, with many having purchased their stock on credit from Shershah Market.

"We had stocked up on goods worth hundreds of thousands of rupees, but now everything is gone," said one distressed vendor. Traders have since appealed to the Sindh government to compensate for their losses, stressing the devastating blow to their livelihoods.

Zafar Khan, a fire officer with the KMC Fire Brigade, suspected that the blaze may have been caused by a short circuit, although the exact cause of the fire has yet to be confirmed. Khan added that the firefighting efforts were complicated by the narrow streets and encroachments around the Lighthouse area, which hindered access for fire tenders and rescue vehicles.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 14/11/2025)

Worker dies in restaurant fire

A teenage worker died in a huge fire that erupted in a restaurant in the Tariq Road area on Sunday, officials said.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan said the fire broke out following a blast in the air-conditioner's compressor on the roof of the building housing the famous eatery Ghaffar Kabab House within the remit of the Ferozabad police station.

Area SHO Tariq Mehmood told Dawn that the AC's outer unit was placed on the rooftop and it caught fire. The blaze spread and engulfed a family room where three employees of the restaurant were present. Two of them managed to go outside but the third one became unconscious after inhaling smoke and died of burns.

The victim was identified as 18-year-old employee Sajjad Sadiq. He was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

The rescue official said that three fire tenders rushed to the scene and managed to control the fire after hectic efforts lasting for around three hours.

The SHO said the police called the parents of the victim and if they wanted to pursue the case legally, then an FIR would be lodged.

Besides, he said, the police are also waiting for the final report of the fire department regarding the exact cause of the fire. He was the police would act if any negligence on part of the owners was found.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 17/11/2025)

Fire breaks out in freight train at Karachi's Cantt Station

Fire broke out in a freight train and destroyed goods stored in its two bogies at the Cantonment Station on Sunday, officials said.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan said that the train carrying imported goods was heading towards a dry port in Punjab. When it reached Cantt Station, a fire erupted in its two bogies which contained dried fruits, solar inverters and batteries.

Receiving the information, firemen rushed to the scene and managed to control the blaze.

However, both bogies suffered extensive damages and fire officials said that goods stored in one of them completely gutted.

The exact cause of the fire could not be ascertained till late at night.

Officials said that the train left the station for its onward journey.

Shop gutted in high-rise blaze

Meanwhile, two people became unconscious when a fire erupted in a shop situated on the ground floor of a high-rise building in the Soldier Bazaar area on Sunday evening.

The Rescue 1122 spokesperson said the smoke emanating from the shop engulfed the residential portion, where two people fell unconscious due to smoke inhalation. They were rescued and shifted to a hospital for treatment. The shop was destroyed in the blaze.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 24/11/2025)

Massive blaze rips through sprawling garment factory at Karachi's Landhi EPZ

A huge fire caused the collapse of a sprawling three-storey garment factory and prompted the rescuers to evacuate three adjacent factories at the Karachi Export Processing Zone (EPZ) within the Landhi industrial area on Thursday. Two firemen were injured when the front portion of the factory caved in during the initial phase of the firefighting operation, according to police and rescue services officials.

The blaze that erupted in the afternoon kept raging fiercely until the entire three-storey structure, weakened by the flames and intense heat, collapsed a few hours after sunset.

Sukhan police said that they and firefighters rushed to the site upon receiving information about the big fire.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan UI Haseeb Khan told *Dawn* that their command and control system received the information at around 2pm. He said EPZ's own fire tenders and those of the Rescue-1122 along with KMC's fire brigade struggled hard to prevent the fire from spreading fast but all floors of the building were packed with clothes, the combustible material, which frustrated the efforts.

"The fire spread rapidly and engulfed the entire building. The flames and intense heat first caused collapse of the front portion of the building. KMC's two firemen at work there suffered burns and other injuries. They were provided first aid by the Rescue-1122 medical team and then taken to the Burns Centre of the city's Civil Hospital for further treatment," he said.

Mr Khan said that as many as 16 fire tenders of the EPZ, Rescue-1122 and KMC fire brigade were employed to put out the blaze.

It was realised in the middle of the firefighting operation that the building might collapse considering intensity of the fire and heat that had weakened the entire structure, he added.

In reply to a question, he said the factor had around 2,000 workers in different shifts and several hundred of them on duty in the afternoon were safely evacuated.

Mr Khan said it was too early to ascertain the cause of this fire but generally such incidents were attributed to electrical short circuit. Only a proper investigation would help establish the cause, he added.

The Rescue-1122 spokesperson share the information about the complete collapse of the enormous building late in the evening. He said that no loss of human life occurred in the fire or collapse of the structure.

Meanwhile, Chief Fire Officer of the KMC's Fire Brigade Humayun Khan told media at the collapsed factory that it was an extremely difficult task to control the fire, stockpiles of combustible material being the main factor.

He said total a dozen KMC fire tenders were among the 20 employed to put out the fire. To a query, he said he did not know whether the factory had the fire safety or firefighting equipment in place.

Eyewitnesses said that clouds of thick smoke emanating from the factory engulfed the nearby localities causing breathing problem to residents and visitors.

The situation inside the factory was even worse which also complicated the firefighting operation, the KMC CFO said, adding that all those present in the adjacent factories and dwellings were also advised to move away from the fire-hit structure.

It was the sixth incident of fire within the Landhi EPZ this year, according to Hassan UI Haseeb Khan. In June 2025, three factories were gutted. Five firefighters had sustained injuries when one of these buildings had collapsed.

Earlier in July 2020, three factories were destroyed by similarly massive fires.
(By Imtaiz Ali Dawn, 13, 05/12/2025)

Fire destroys oil tankers

A fire broke out at an oil terminal and engulfed multiple oil tankers near the Younis Oil area in Keamari on Tuesday, police and rescue services officials said.

Fortunately, they added, all the tankers were empty at the time of the incident.

DIG South Syed Asad Raza said that no loss of life was reported in the incident. "The fire broke out during the welding work at the site. Four to five empty oil tankers were damaged, three of them significantly, but there were no casualties," he said.

The police said the incident occurred behind Kausar Mosque in Shirin Jinnah Colony Block 2, where an oil disposal point is located. The blaze quickly spread due to the presence of flammable material, affecting several oil tankers parked nearby.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 17/12/2025)

Another huge fire breaks out in Karachi's EPZ factory

A huge fire broke out in the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) of Landhi on Monday evening, officials said.

The blaze erupted on the second floor of the Z.A. Enterprises building and was brought under control after several hours.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan said they received information about the fire at around 5:21pm. As it was evening, factory workers had already left the building.

More than 15 fire tenders, including two snorkels, managed to control the fire by around 8:50pm. Cooling operations continued late into the night.

Mr Khan said this was the second major fire in the EPZ within three weeks. In the previous incident, an entire factory building had collapsed.

He added that this was the seventh fire reported in the EPZ over the past year.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 23/12/2025)