

Building Name Address	Use (as per FSA Annexed Table 1)	Date and Time of Incident	Structure and Stories Area	Extent of Damage (Damaged Area/ Total Area)	No. of Casualties
Imai Building (Nijoh Plaza Hotel)	Complex (16) a	Dec. 16, 1976	Fire resistive	All, Half, Partial, Small 339 m ² (32%)	Fatalities 3
		Breakout at 00:35 (approx.) Detected at 00:38 Notified by emergency call Extinguished by 02:28	4 stories above ground and 1 below		
6 Nijoh Asahikawa, HOKKAIDO			Building area 210 m ²		Injured 0 ()
			Total floor area 1,056 m ²		

I. Summary of Fire Incident							
(1) Summary	<p>Early in the morning, the fire emerged from a hotel guest room on the 3rd floor of a 4-story building located in downtown Asahikawa. This fire-resistant building was completely destroyed and the fire resulted in 3 fatalities who were all hotel guests. Each floor had a different tenant and the hotel was on the 3rd floor of this typical multi-tenant building where the only stairs were shared by all the tenants.</p>						
	(2) Conditions per Floor	Floor	Total area m ²	Damaged area m ²	Use (Purpose)	No. of persons	No. of fatalities
PH		22					1 set of inside stairs (1st to 4th floors)
4		210	129	Residence hotel	1		
		210	210			6	3
2		210		Bars	3		1 set of fixed ladders (1st basement floor)
1		210		Coffee shop, Residences	6		
B1		194		Cabaret, Boiler room	1		1 set of metal ladders (3rd floor)
Total		1,056	339		17	3	
(3) Origin of Fire	<p>(Floor, Room, Part, Combustibles, Habitable/Non-habitable Rooms, Present/Absent)</p> <p><u>From a hotel guest room (Room 304) on the 3rd floor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 6-<i>tatami</i> mat guest room with a private bathroom. The interior wall was made of fireproof board and was partially wallpapered. The hallway and ceiling were made of plywood, but finished with fire-resistant paint. The door to the room was made of plywood frame and thick Japanese paper stretched over the frame. 				(4) Cause of Fire	<p><u>Unattended burning cigarette</u></p> <p>The <i>futon</i> mattress caught on fire because of a burning cigarette that the hotel guest did not put out before going to sleep.</p>	

(5) Fire Propagation Path	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">(Location of Fire Source)</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">(Propagation from Source)</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">(Propagation to Other Floors)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Guest room (Room 304) on the 3rd floor</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Backside of ceiling</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Through the unsealed clearances around the exhaust air duct passing through the slab</td> </tr> </table>		(Location of Fire Source)	(Propagation from Source)	(Propagation to Other Floors)	Guest room (Room 304) on the 3rd floor	Backside of ceiling	Through the unsealed clearances around the exhaust air duct passing through the slab		
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<p>The fire that emerged in Room 304 was just smoldering in the beginning because the ceiling was made of fireproof board and the door was tightly closed. However, when guest A (age 25, died) opened the door, the flames emerged instantly and spread to both the ceiling and slab spaces. Then through the unsealed clearance around the exhaust air duct, the flames leaped higher reaching the storage area of the 4th floor. .</p>										
<p>○ Main Reasons for Propagation of the Fire</p> <p>There was no fire compartment system and no fire damper on the duct. The clearance around the duct passing through the slab was never sealed back.</p> <p>○ Smoke Propagation Path</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Through the unsealed clearances around the exhaust air duct passing through the slab. ◦ Hallways and inside stairs 										
II. Summary of the Building										
(1) Built	Construction, Completion, and Major Renovations Aug. 13, 1964									
	Fire Prevention Management	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">(2) Vertical Shafts</td> <td style="width: 50%;">(3) Fire Prevention</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Stairwells <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duct spaces <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elevators <input type="checkbox"/> Pipe shafts <input type="checkbox"/> Escalators <input type="checkbox"/> Other () <input type="checkbox"/> </td> <td rowspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ No fire-prevention manager. ◦ No fire defense plan. ◦ No fire or evacuation drills held. ◦ No inspection of the firefighting equipment. </td> </tr> <tr> <td>The duct did not have a damper or anything similar in nature (3rd and 4th floor portions) and there were unsealed clearances on the slab where the duct passed through.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(4) Fire Compartments</td> <td>(5) Firefighting Equipment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No fire compartment.</td> <td> The inspectors pointed out: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Insufficient number of fire extinguishers. 2. Non-functioning detectors on the 1st and 2nd floors. 3. Insufficient number of guiding lights on the basement floor. </td> </tr> </table>	(2) Vertical Shafts	(3) Fire Prevention	Stairwells <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duct spaces <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elevators <input type="checkbox"/> Pipe shafts <input type="checkbox"/> Escalators <input type="checkbox"/> Other () <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ No fire-prevention manager. ◦ No fire defense plan. ◦ No fire or evacuation drills held. ◦ No inspection of the firefighting equipment. 	The duct did not have a damper or anything similar in nature (3rd and 4th floor portions) and there were unsealed clearances on the slab where the duct passed through.	(4) Fire Compartments	(5) Firefighting Equipment	No fire compartment.
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(5) Evacuation	Means of Escape (No. of Persons)	Obstacles to Evacuation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Stairs [X] (2) ◦ Elevators/Escalators [] () ◦ Escape equipment [] () ◦ Directly to ground from windows or openings [X] (2) ◦ Rescued [] () ◦ Other () [] () 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ No windows [] ◦ Barred openings [] ◦ Locked emergency doors (Exits) [] ◦ Alarm system [] (Poorly controlled, Malfunctioned, Not installed) ◦ Power outage [] ◦ Other []
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The guest in Room 301 was watching TV when the fire broke out. Although he became aware of the fire much later, he was able to escape through a window by climbing down the bulletin board structure. ◦ The guest in Room 307 (the 119 caller) and the hotel manager ran down the stairs to the ground. ◦ The hotel owner who was asleep on the 4th floor noticed the smoke and escaped through a window by jumping down to the rooftop of an adjacent building. 	
(6) Casualties	Healthy individuals 3 (Drunk persons) Individuals in need of assistance Infants Elderly Handicapped Patients/ill persons	Obstacles to Evacuation
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The male guest (age 21) in Room 308 was probably asleep when the fire broke out, and he died in the hallway in front of the room. ◦ Two guests in the fire room (Room 304) died. The male guest (age 25) was found near the stairs, and in the opposite direction, a female guest (age 15) was found near the dead-end of the hallway. 	
IV. Issues and Lessons Learned		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A multi-tenant building that is occupied by a hotel or a hostess bar always has issues in fire prevention and maintenance of the firefighting equipment. These issues must be dealt with seriously by proactive inspections, and the owners and management need to be more involved in preventive measures. 2. Regardless of the building design or condition, a 2-way evacuation route needs to be secured as required by law. 		

