



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

From Hearth to Hazard: Impact of Site Fires in the Levant

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Abstract

In human history there are few inventions that have had such a universal impact as fire. From technology to hearth, fire has been both a boon and a fear. Throughout history and within living memory, fires have taken many lives. We continue to touch on that border of convenience and safety. Today, fire safety engineering is employed in all aspects design, but how did the ancient world contend with fire? With a cursory look at the science and physics of fire, and an exploration of three conflagrations in the Levant, this research aims to identify how fires spread throughout ancient sites. This work will focus on how fires spread through buildings, why they could have spread, and how they may have been managed during a conflagration. The aim of this work is to identify what features encouraged a positive flame spread, how these fires were then suppressed, and any community design changes that may have occurred because of it. Fire is a communal responsibility, both in use and in suppression. Understanding how the relationship to fire functioned in the Levant will increase our contextual understanding of how fire responsibility may have affected site design in the Bronze and Iron Ages.

Keywords

Fire, Levant, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Flame Spread

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