## ARE SAFETY MEASURES ADDRESSED IN THE DESIGN OF OUR RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS?

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## ABSTRACT

Architects and engineers play the most significant role in assuring safety in the design of buildings. However, in the absence of enforced local building safety codes and standards, many Saudi buildings, especially residential type, are designed without considerations for safety measures. According to statistics, residential buildings in Saudi Arabia account for the highest percentage of buildings burnt among all types of buildings. This is mainly due to the lack of safety measures in the design of such buildings complicated by poor construction/installation methods and lack of safety awareness among residents. The objective of this paper is to present the results of the assessment of safety practices in the design of residential buildings in Saudi Arabia and to identify common safety deficiencies. It also presents a systematic safety compliance checklist based on existing local safety instructions and international safety codes and standards. The checklist use is intended to ensure compliance with the minim safety requirements in the design of residential buildings.

Key Words: Fire safety, safety design, residential buildings, Saudi Arabia