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## Huge fire sweeps through market in Kabul, several shops burnt

June 11, 2013

A huge fire has swept through a market in capital Kabul on Monday night which has reportedly destroyed dozens of shops in Lycee Maryam area.

According to reports the incident took place around 11pm local time and continued until Tuesday morning.

No casualties have been reported following the incident and ISAF along with the Kabul fire department was contacted for the help to quit the fire.

The main reason behind the fire incident is still unclear.

This comes as a devastating fire in capital Kabul destroyed around 600 shops last year, incurring a loss of \$50,000 to each shop owners.

Afghan president Hamid Karzai following the incident decided to enforce mandatory insurance law for all commercial zones in Afghanistan, however no practical step has been taken in this regard so far.

The Afghan capital, which is home to around five million people, has a poor fire safety reputation, though the fire department was upgraded with international help after the fall of the Taliban regime in a US-led invasion in late 2001.\

Lack of mandatory insurance, commercial buildings with low standards and lack of precautions by shop owners are believed to be the main motives behind devastating fire incidents in the country.