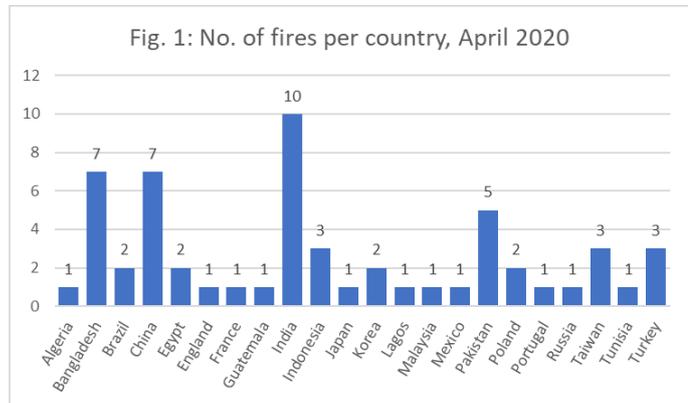


Fires in the Fashion Industry Supply Chain April 2020

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in association with GoBLU
Published: 08 May 2020*

1. Research Findings

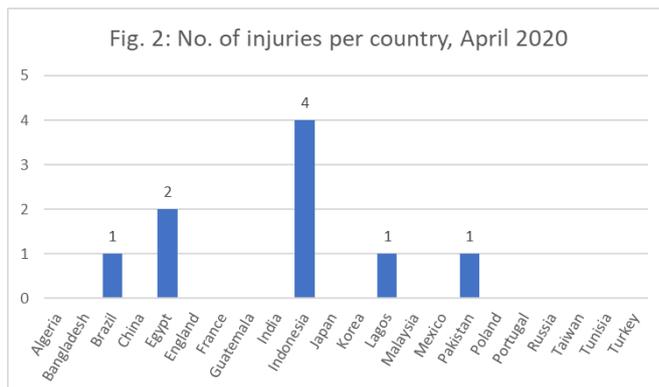
In April 2020, there were 57 reported fires in the fashion industry supply chain, for an average of 1.9 fires per day. These fires resulted in zero deaths and nine injuries (ranging from smoke inhalation to burns). The average number of fires per day, fire incidents, deaths and injuries are all lower compared to March (see [here](#) for the March report), and lower than running monthly averages (see the 'April at a glance' graphic above).



Fires were reported in 22 countries, with seven countries reporting more than two fires. India, with 10 fires for the month, accounted for 17.5% of all fires reported.

Figure 1 shows the number of fires per country. Countries reporting more than two fires for April were (in descending order) India (10), Bangladesh and China (7 each), Pakistan (5), and Indonesia, Taiwan and Turkey (3 each). Between them, these seven countries accounted for 38 fires (or 66.6%).

As noted, there were no human lives lost in reported fires this month. However, it is worth mentioning a fire at a mink farm in Poland (#47) resulted in the deaths of all animals in the shed destroyed.



The nine injuries reported occurred in five fires [see Fig. 2]. The fire resulting in the most injuries was at a factory producing sewing thread in Indonesia (#35, which saw four injured and hospitalised; three with smoke inhalation and one with burns). A fire in Pakistan (#42) resulted in an employee transported to hospital unconscious due to smoke inhalation.

The other fires resulting in injuries were in Brazil (#10 – an employee suffered burns and smoke inhalation), Egypt (#19 – two employees were overcome by smoke), and Lagos (#39 – a firefighter was hospitalised for smoke inhalation).

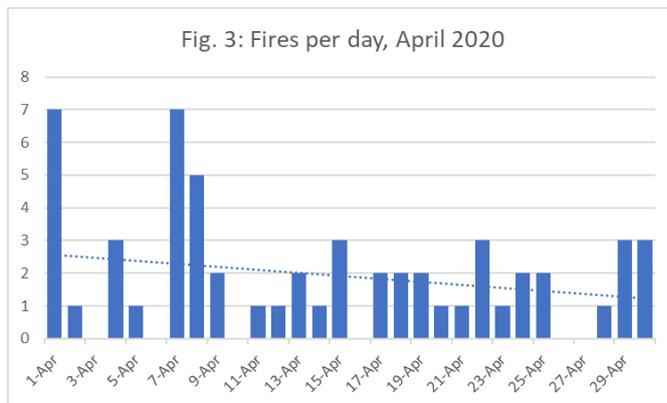


Fig. 3 shows the number of fires per day across all 22 countries where fires were reported.

There were no fires reported on six days during the month. On two days (Wednesday 01 and Tuesday 07 April), seven fires were reported. The trend line shows a decline in frequency over the month.

As mentioned in the report for March, a slight decline in frequency may have been attributable to factory lockdowns in a number of production countries. The report noted: “Since India accounted for nearly one third of all fires [in March], and many of the country’s garment factories furloughed workers after PM Modi’s announcement, data for India may provide a useful indicator for any correlation between fire frequency and factory closures.” Since India also accounted for the majority of fires in April, it is worth combining data for both months.

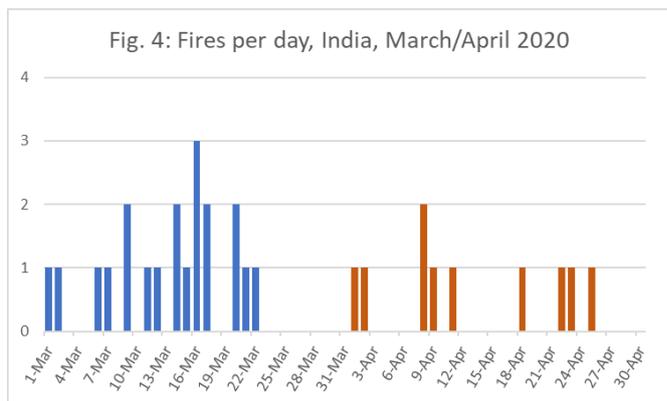


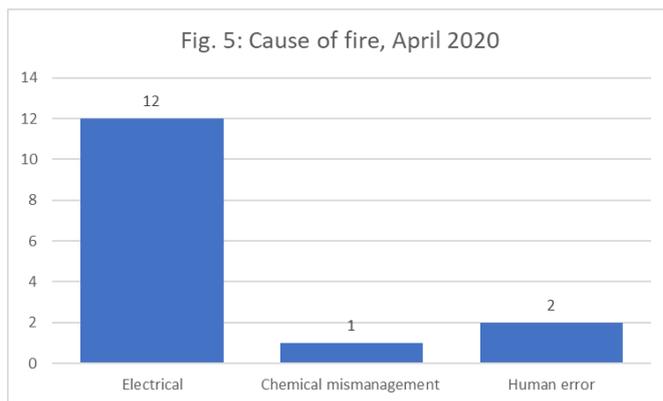
Fig. 4 shows fires per day from March and April.

Note that India did not report a fire on or after 23 March (after PM Modi announced a nationwide lockdown), and that the frequency and number declined for April (under lockdown for the first half of the month, and then a mixture of lockdown and gradual reopening for the remainder).

In March, India reported 20 fires (occurring on 14 days). In April, there were 10 fires (occurring on nine days). Five of the ten fires in India during April were reported to have occurred in factories closed due to lockdown (#23, 28, 29, 30 and 31).

Reports on five other fires reported during the month also noted the factory in question was closed due to lockdown (Bangladesh #4 and 5, Malaysia #40, and Turkey #57), or partial lockdown (Indonesia #35).

Thus, 10 fires (17.5%) occurred while closed due to lockdown (or partial lockdown).



Finally, Fig. 5 shows the causes of fires this month (when reported).¹

21% of fires resulted from an electrical malfunction, almost always attributed to a short circuit.

Firefighters suspected the cause of one fire (1.8%) in Guatemala (#27) was due to a chemical reaction (i.e., chemical mismanagement).

In two instances, human error was the cause. Incident #29 in India was started by workers cooking in the factory (which was also locked down at the time), and #53 in Taiwan originated in an oil drum near a worker dormitory.

Basic information on each incident is provided in the data table below. Section 3 provides full details and links to original sources.

2. Data table

FIRES IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY SUPPLY CHAIN, APRIL 2020						
#	Country/City	Type	Details	Name	Casualties	Date
1	Algeria, El Taref	Textile	Large fire, four units attended, significant material damage. Cause unknown	-	None	15-Apr-20
2	Bangladesh, Gazipur	Spinning mill	Firefighters took 4 hours to control fire, which erupted on 2 nd floor. Cause unknown	Karim Spinning Mills	None reported	17-Apr-20
3	Bangladesh, Sharsha	Jute mill	Fire caused significant damage. Short circuit blamed	Afil Jute Weaving Mills	None reported	15-Apr-20
4	Bangladesh, Kamalganj	Cotton mill	Fire gutted factory and destroyed machinery & cotton. Short circuit the cause. On Covid-19 lockdown	-	None reported	13-Apr-20
5	Bangladesh, Basundia	Spinning mill	Factory was operating despite lockdown; 7 units fought blaze for four hours; cause unknown	North South Spinning Mill	None	07-Apr-20
6	Bangladesh, Dhaka	Cutting and dyeing	Fire started on 2 nd floor of 5-storey building, burned for an hour before brought under control. Cause unknown	Bhai Bhai Sheet Cutting and Dyeing Factory	None reported	07-Apr-20
7	Bangladesh, Tongi	'Jhut' godown (warehouse for waste from woven and knit garments)	6 units fought the blaze for over an hour; short circuit is suspected. Unspecified number of warehouses destroyed	-	None reported	05-Apr-20
8	Bangladesh, Gazipur	Apparel	3 fire units doused fire in an hour	Islam Garments	None	01-Apr-20

¹ Most media reports on fire incidents do not indicate cause, usually noting the fire is still under investigation.

9	Brazil, Divinópolis	Apparel	Fire in a three-story building; damaged structure	Tricko (Bike Wear)	None	18-Apr-20
10	Brazil, Belo Horizonte	Textile	A large fire, which burned for more than 12 hours; military cordoned off site due to risk of explosion	Ematex	1 injured (burns and smoke inhalation)	04-Apr-20
11	China, Luzhou	Textile	Fire destroyed factory; 15 trucks and 60 firefighters on site. Cause unknown	-	None	29-Apr-20
12	China, Dongguan	Shoe	Fire was in a 2,000 m ² factory producing plastic shoes	-	None	22-Apr-22
13	China, Dongguan	Bag (and plastic products)	Large fire with multiple units in attendance. No employees in building at time.	Dongguan Jinsheng Plastic Products Co. Ltd., owned by AGVA	None	19-Apr-20
14	China, Shanghai	Textile (synthetic fibres and textiles)	More than 30 units attended and fought blaze for three hours.	Far Eastern Industries (Shanghai) Ltd.	None	17-Apr-20
15	China, Shengzhou	Textile/Apparel (silkworms to silk ties)	Major fire, which reportedly damaged silkworm rearing facility (not reported in Chinese media)	Zhejiang Babei Necktie Company	None	15-Apr-20
16	China, Chaozhou	Shoe	Fire at a 3-storey factory with large quantities of flammable chemicals and plastics. Cause unknown	-	None	09-Apr-20
17	China, Wenzhou	Shoe	Large fire in old industrial zone. Cause of fire unknown	-	None reported	01-Apr-20
18	Egypt, Qalyub	Apparel	7 fire units attended fire in 1,000 m ² factory	-	None	12-Apr-20
19	Egypt, 10 th of Ramadan	Textile (blanket)	Large fire, 12 units required to control. Short circuit blamed	Nana Secret	2 injured (for smoke inhalation)	07-Apr-20
20	England, Adlington	Textile	8 fire engines, 50 firefighters attended; warehouse completely destroyed	Carrington Textiles	None	01-Apr-20
21	France, Brassac	Spinning (yarn for knitwear, hosiery, weaving, upholstery, etc.)	Fire caused significant damage to warehouse but factory ok; was making free masks for COVID-19	Filatures du parc	None	07-Apr-20
22	Guatemala, Guatemala City	Cotton factory	Factory destroyed; fire threatened nearby houses	-	None reported	07-Apr-20
23	India, Madhya Pradesh	Cotton Gin	Factory was locked down, fire burned cotton to ashes. Took one hour to control. Short circuit suspected	-	None	25-Apr-20
24	India, Thane	Textile	Fire in a 1-storey factory, 2 fire engines and 2 tankers attended	-	None	23-Apr-20
25	India, Pandua	Apparel (hosiery)	Factory located in residential area house. Cause unknown	-	None	22-Apr-20

26	India, Bhavani	Textile	Fire originating in boiler room burnt materials. Firefighters fought for more than an hour; short circuit	-	None reported	18-Apr-20
27	India, Ludhiana	Apparel	Factory is in a residential area. Fire did not spread, two units attended. Cause unknown	Golden Collection	None	11-Apr-20
28	India, Tronica City	Apparel	5 units attended; fire started in clothing due to suspected short circuit. Factory closed due to COVID-19	Blessing Export	None	09-Apr-20
29	India, Ludhiana	Apparel (hosiery)	Fire started by workers cooking, which led to LPG cylinder explosion; factory on COVID-19 lockdown	-	None	08-Apr-20
30	India, Haryana	Shoe	Company on COVID-19 lockdown, 4 units attended, fire destroyed raw material	Mahalaxmi Polymers, K.V. Footwear, & Combit	None	08-Apr-20
31	India, Coimbatore	Thread	Fire took 4-5 hours to douse; machinery and material burned. Factory was closed due to lockdown	-	None reported	02-Apr-20
32	India, Ludhiana	Apparel (men's and ladies knits, T-shirts)	3-storey building gutted; 14 units attended; narrow lanes a problem; short circuit suspected	J.P Knits	None	01-Apr-20
33	Indonesia, Cianjur	Apparel	5 trucks and 20 firefighters; structural and material damage. Short circuit suspected	PT Eastern Modern Apparel (EMA)	None	30-Apr-20
34	Indonesia, Temanggung	Textile	Fire in 3 warehouses took 6 hours to bring under control	PT Sumber Makmur Anugerah (PT SMA)	None	22-Apr-20
35	Indonesia, Bandung	Sewing thread	Fire was intense, threatened adjacent buildings. Partial closure due to covid-19, but employees on site when fire broke out	Victory Pan Multitex , owned by PT Pan Brothers Tbk	4 injured (3 with smoke inhalation; 1 with burns); all hospitalised	19-Apr-20
36	Japan, Imabari	Dyeing, sewing, embroidery (towels)	Fire started in a workshop on 1 st and 2 nd floors. No injuries. Cause unknown	Tsuzukibo Imabari	None	14-Apr-20
37	Korea, Daegu	Weaving mill	70 firefighters and 25 fire trucks fought blaze for an hour; cause unknown	-	None	29-Apr-20
38	Korea, Seoul	Apparel	Fire started at a second-floor factory in 4-storey building. 50 minutes to extinguish	-	None	13-Apr-20
39	Lagos, Ikorodu	Shoe (slippers)	Factory gutted, raw materials burned. Cause unknown	Mateco Group	1 injured (firefighter hospitalised for smoke inhalation)	01-Apr-20

40	Malaysia, Ipoh	Apparel (garment and stocking)	Fire destroyed factory, closed due to COVID-19 lockdown	-	None	08-Apr-20
41	Mexico, Puebla	Spinning mill	Fire in warehouse took 40 minutes to bring under control; materials damaged	Hilaturas Roca	None	20-Apr-20
42	Pakistan, Sheikhupura	Shoe	3 fire units attended; short circuit blamed	Waqar Rubber Factory	1 injured (transported unconscious to hospital for smoke inhalation)	30-Apr-20
43	Pakistan, Okara	Cotton factory	Locals tried to put out the fire. Cause unknown	-	None reported	24-Apr-20
44	Pakistan, Karachi	Apparel (warehouse)	Two units attended. Cause unknown	-	None	08-Apr-20
45	Pakistan, Karachi	Apparel (sewing masks)	Fire destroyed the premises; caused by short circuit	-	None	08-Apr-20
46	Pakistan, Karachi	Apparel (embroidery)	3 units attended. Cause unknown. Factory vacant at time of fire	-	None reported	04-Apr-20
47	Poland, Dębówiec	Fur (mink farm)	Fire in animal shed; destroyed by the time firefighters arrived; all animals died in burned shed	-	None reported	21-Apr-20
48	Poland, Baranów Sandomierski	Haberdashery products	5 units deployed, premises and materials damaged. Cause unknown	-	None reported	04-Apr-20
49	Portugal, Barcelos	Textile (warehouse)	52 firefighters called out; building destroyed	Fiarel – Sociedade Fiandeira de Barcelos	None reported	07-Apr-20
50	Russia, Kineshma	Textile	16 units and 52 firefighters required to extinguish the fire; cause unknown	-	None	07-Apr-20
51	Taiwan, New Taipei City	Apparel	A fire in a ground floor factory spread to 2 garment factories on 2 nd floor; 61 fire trucks attended	-	None	29-Apr-20
52	Taiwan, Taichung	Textile	Fire started on 2 nd floor of 3-storey building; extinguished in 30 minutes. Cause unknown	-	None	28-Apr-20
53	Taiwan, Tainan	Textile (non-woven)	Fire broke out in oil drum near dormitory; controlled by fire brigade	Universal Incorporation	None	25-Apr-20
54	Tunisia, Cherahil	Apparel	Fire destroyed 25% of factory, and 2,000-piece export order. Cause was electrical malfunction	-	None reported	24-Apr-20
55	Turkey, Gaziantep	Spinning mill	Firefighters put flames out in short time; cause unknown	Karasan İplik [Karasan Yarn]	None	30-Apr-20

56	Turkey, Kahramanmaraş	Textile	12 units and 35 firefighters took two hours to douse; fire in warehouse	-	None	01-Apr-20
57	Turkey, Kahramanmaraş	Textile (knit fabric)	Firefighters extinguished the fire quickly; factory has been closed for some time due to COVID-19	Boymar Textile Industry and Trade Company	None	01 Apr 20

3. Full Details

Below are full details of each incident, including links to original sources. Incident Number (#) in the table below corresponds with the table above.

#	Incident Details
1	Massive fire at textile factory in Al-Taref : A fire broke out in a textile factory in the Mustafa district, causing significant material loss. Four fire units attended. There were no injuries. The cause of the fire is unknown (15 Apr – in Arabic from <i>Ennahar</i>). [Ed's note: see video footage here .]
2	Fire breaks out at Gazipur's Karim Spinning Mills factory : "A fire broke out at the Karim Spinning Mills Ltd factory in Konabari of Gazipur city on Friday afternoon. Gazipur Fire Service and Civil Defence Deputy Director Md Mamunur Rashid said the fire erupted on a floor of the factory around 3:30pm, reports UNB. On information, five firefighting units went there and brought the fire under control around 7:40pm, he said. The reason behind the fire and the extent of losses could not be known yet" (17 Apr – from the <i>Dhaka Tribune</i>). [Ed's note: Karim Spinning Mills , a company owned by the Purbani Group , has 32,000 spindles with daily production capacity of 16 tons of combed and carded cotton yarn, the majority of which are supplied to the knit industry for export. Short video clip of fire here .]
3	Fire at Sharsha jute mill causes millions of rupees in damage : A fire at Afil Jute Weaving Mills in Sharsha has caused major damage. The fire is thought to have been caused by a short circuit. There was no report of injuries (15 Apr – in Bangla from <i>Khobor 71</i>). [Ed's note: Afil is one of the largest jute goods manufacturing companies in Bangladesh, and is 100% export-oriented manufacturer and exporter of jute goods.]
4	Damage worth millions of rupees in Kamalganj fire : A fire in a cotton mill on 13 April gutted the building, destroying machinery and cotton. The fire resulted from a short circuit. There were no injuries reported as the factory was closed due to the Covid-19 lockdown (14 Apr – in Bangla from <i>News Broadcasting Service</i>).
5	Fierce fire at North South Spinning Mill in Basundia : On 07 April, the North South Spinning Mill caught on fire. It was operating despite orders to close during a nationwide lockdown. Seven units attended and fought the blaze for four hours. There were no casualties. Fire Service Officer Moshiar Rahman said it is "sad to see a factory running, ignoring the government policy in this time of trouble." The "overall discussion shows that the factory lacks adequate firefighting facilities". The cause of the fire is unknown (12 Apr – in Bangla from <i>Dainik Noapara</i>).
6	Fire breaks out in Dhaka factory : "A fire has broken out at a bed sheet, cotton and plastic factory [Bhai Bhai Sheet Cutting and Dyeing Factory] at Par Gandaria's Rasulbagh in Dhaka ... The source of the fire is yet to be confirmed and no casualties have been reported so far" (07 Apr – from the <i>Dhaka Tribune</i>).
7	Fire in 'jhut' godowns : A fire in Tongi that claimed an unspecified number of jhut godowns (warehouses for waste from woven and knit garments) took six fire units one hour to bring under control. A short circuit is suspected as the cause. No injuries reported (06 Apr – in Bangla from <i>RisingBD</i>). [Ed's note: see video footage here .]

8	Gazipur RMG factory catches fire : “A fire broke out at a garment factory of Islam Garments in Jorun area in Gazipur on Wednesday. Fire service sources said the fire erupted at the installation that houses ‘Islam Garments’ at around 7:30am” (01 Apr – from <i>New Age Bangladesh</i>). [Ed’s note: <i>Islam Garments</i> lists Walmart, H&M, Next, Zara , to mention a few, as customers.]
9	Garment factory fire in Divinópolis : A fire at clothing factory owned by Tricko (Bike Wear) has caused damage to part of the three-story structure in which it was located. The company employs dozens of people, but no injuries were reported as the factory was closed at the time of the fire (18 Apr – in Portuguese from <i>Sistema MPA</i>).
10	Large fire hits fabric factory in Belo Horizonte : A large fire has destroyed a factory owned by Ematex , a large producer of textiles. One factory employee suffered burns and smoke inhalation. This story (in Portuguese) says the military cordoned off the site due to the risk of explosion. The cause of the fire is unknown (04 Apr – in Portuguese from <i>Estado de Minas</i>).
11	Fire in a Luzhou textile factory : A fire textile factory in Luzhou, Sichuan has destroyed the premises, requiring 12 fire units and 60 personnel to contain the blaze. No injuries were recorded, but the factory is located in a residential area and caused concern it might spread (29 Apr – in Chinese from <i>SCOL</i>).
12	Fire breaks in Dongguan shoe factory : A fire broke out on 22 April in Hu’anwei village, Gaoan Town at a factory producing plastic shoes. There were no casualties (22 Apr – in Chinese from the <i>Dongguan Daily</i>).
13	Fire at bag factory in Dongguan : The Dongguan Bureau of Emergency Management has confirmed a fire broke out at Jinsheng Plastic Products Co Ltd . There were no casualties and the fire is under investigation (19 Apr – in Chinese from <i>Epoch Times</i>). [Ed’s note: <i>the Jinsheng Plastic Products factory is owned by Singaporean company AGVA, which is a “leading global manufacturer of lifestyle bags and accessories predominantly in the consumer electronics industry – Laptop bags, backpacks, tablet cases, mobile phone cases, hard drive cases, GPS cases, travel accessories, off-the-shelves multi-purpose pouches, etc.” The Dongguan factory also produces plastic film and other plastic products, including face masks. The company website says it produces “design[s] for over 100 brands.”</i>]
14	More than 30 fire trucks attend fire at major synthetic fibre and textile producer : More than 30 fire trucks attended a fire at major synthetic fibre and textile producer Far Eastern Industries (Shanghai) Ltd in Fengxian, Shanghai. It took three hours to bring the blaze under control. There were no casualties and the cause is under investigation (17 Apr – in Chinese from <i>Baijia Hao</i>). [Ed’s note: <i>Far Eastern Industries (Shanghai)</i> is owned by Taiwan’s Far Eastern Group , which has an annual revenue of more than \$23.4 billion and assets of \$85 billion. FEIS produces a broad range of synthetic fibres and textiles from polyester and down alternatives to faux fur and PLA fibre.]
15	Fire at major silk producer and manufacturer in Zhejiang : A fire at the Zhejiang Babei Necktie Company in Shengzhou has caused significant damage to the part of the facility where the company raised silkworms. The fire was brought under control and no injuries were reported (16 Apr – in Chinese from <i>Xinchang Information Port Network Media Co.</i>). [Ed’s note: <i>this story was not covered in the Chinese media – as far as I can determine – so the link is to an archived version of the story (and photos and videos). The live version is here. Babei is a major producer of silk fabric and products, including neckties, home textiles and Jacquard scarfs and prints. It claims to produce 30 million ties per year, making it one of the world’s largest producers of high-end ties.</i>]
16	Fire in Guangdong shoe factory More than 60 firefighters fought a three-storey shoe factory fire for two hours Chaozhou, Guangdong. A large quantity of flammable chemicals and plastic was stored on site, posing a threat to those attending and the environment. There were no injuries (09 Apr – in Chinese from the <i>Southern Net</i>).

17	Fire at shoe factory in Wenzhou : A fierce fire broke out in a shoe factory in the Xin'an Industrial Park in Ruian, a county-level city under the jurisdiction of Wenzhou. Both the factory and the industrial zone are old. Fire units attended. Cause unknown. No injuries reported (01 Apr – in Chinese from <i>Sina</i>). [Ed's note: reporting on this fire is from local citizens who captured video of the incident. You can see more video footage, photos and discussion of the incident here on a local Ruian BBS.]
18	Fire in Qalyub apparel factory : A fire broke out in a 1,000 square metre apparel factory in Qalyub, in the northern part of Cairo. Seven units attended the fire, which was without casualties (12 Apr – in Arabic from <i>Qalioubia Online</i>).
19	Fire at blanket factory in 10th of Ramadan : 12 fire units responded to a fire at the Nana Secret blanket factory in the 10 th of Ramadan. Two workers who suffered smoke inhalation received medical attention at the site. A short circuit is blamed for the fire (07 Apr – in Arabic from <i>Youm7</i>).
20	Adlington textile factory 'completely destroyed' in dramatic fire : "A textile factory has been 'completely destroyed' after it went up in flames yesterday (April 1). Smoke billowed over Chorley after the commercial building on Huyton Road in Adlington caught fire, resulting in a significant response from the fire service. Shortly after 6pm, eight fire engines from Lancashire and Greater Manchester rushed to the scene of the blaze which engulfed the full textile manufacturing warehouse" (02 Apr – from <i>LancsLive</i>). [Ed's note: the fire was at a warehouse for Carrington Textiles . See message from MD here , including an announcement of no casualties and that the factory remains fully operational.]
21	Violent fire in Brassac spinning mill : A violent fire has destroyed a section of a warehouse belonging to Filatures du parc (a producer of yarns for knitwear, hosiery, weaving, upholstery, etc.). The fire was at night, and nobody was in the factory, which was undamaged. The factory had recently slowed down production since the spread of COVID-19, but had started to manufacture protective masks for free. The company had recently won the contract to make thread by a process reducing CO2 emissions by 60% for the seats of ZOE, the Renault group's electric car (08 Apr – in French from <i>La Depeche</i>).
22	Fire breaks out in cotton factory : A fire in Guatemala City has destroyed a cotton and sponge factory and threatened nearby homes. Firefighters suspect the cause may have been due to a chemical reaction. No injuries reported (07 Apr – in Spanish from <i>Prensa Libre</i>).
23	Fire in locked down cotton gin burns cotton to ashes : A fire in a locked down Madhya Pradesh cotton gin has destroyed cotton stored on site. Only a few people were present when the fire broke out and there were no injured. A short circuit is the suspected cause (25 Apr – in Hindi from <i>The Lokniti</i>).
24	Fire breaks out at textile factory in Thane; no one injured : "A fire broke out in the textile factory at Kausa area in Mumbra on Thursday. No one was injured. The fire was extinguished by Regional Disaster Management Cell (RDMC) official within a few hours" (23 Apr – from the <i>Hindustan Times</i>).
25	Terrible fire at hosiery factory in Telipara, Pandua : A fire broke out in a hosiery factory located in a house in a residential area. The fire brigade managed to rescue the family. Cause of the fire is unknown (22 Apr – in Bangla from <i>Khabor Sojasapta</i>).
26	Fire at textile factory in Bhavani : A fire originating in the boiler room of a textiles company near Bhavani in Erode has caused damage to materials. Units from the Bhavani fire station fought for more than an hour to control it. The accident was caused by a short circuit (19 Apr – in Tamil from <i>Dinamalar</i>).

27	Fire in garment factory put out soon, none hurt : “A fire incident was reported in the Golden Collection garment factory in Maharaja Ranjit Singh Park behind Shingaar Cinema on Saturday afternoon. The fire brigade controlled the situation within some time, as the flames did not spread anywhere, except a room behind the unit. But since the unit was located in a residential area, people got scared. The exact cause of the fire, however, is not known” (12 Apr – from <i>The Times of India</i>).
28	Fire in Tronica City garment factory : A fire in garment factory closed due to lockdown has burned a significant amount of product stored in the building. Fire officials suspect a short circuit was the cause (09 Apr – in Hindi from <i>Jagran</i>). [Ed’s note: this article , in Hindi, says five fire units attended and the factory name is Blessing Export . See video of fire here .]
29	LPG cylinder explodes in unit, close shave for 4 : “Four workers had a narrow escape when an LPG cylinder caught fire and exploded at a garment factory in Daresi [in Ludhiana] on Wednesday ... Due to the lockdown, the factory was not operational. Four of its workers were living on the first floor. They were cooking in the afternoon when the cylinder caught fire” (09 Apr – from the <i>Times of India</i>). [Ed’s note: this story , in Hindi, says the factory is located above a building materials store, and that it was a hosiery factory.]
30	Fire in footwear factory : A fire in a footwear factory (named as K.V. Footwear in the report) on lockdown in Haryana has burned raw materials to ashes. Four fire units attended. There were no injuries reported, with only a handful of workers and security guards on site at the time. The cause of the fire is unknown (08 Apr – in Hindi from <i>Punjab Kesari</i>). [Ed’s note: subsequent research has determined the company also trades under the name Mahalaxmi Polymers , a manufacturer, supplier, trader, exporter and importer of shoes (see more here and here). The company shares an address with Combit , an Indian brand of shoes.]
31	Thread factory fire in Coimbatore : A fire in a thread factory has destroyed millions of rupees worth of raw materials. The factory was closed because of the lockdown. The fire was controlled after 4-5 hours. Cause of fire is unknowns. No injuries reported (02 Apr – in Hindi from <i>Patrika</i>).
32	Major fire at a garment factory in Ludhiana : A major fire incident was reported in J.P Knits dealing with manufacturing of t-shirts and lowers located at Bahadurke Road on Wednesday early morning where three-storey building gutted in fire completely. Luckily nobody received injuries or got hurt as the factory was closed at the time of the incident. Exact reason for fire is yet to be known but on Tuesday a transformer had caught fire and firemen doused the flames. However this transformer is far away from the spot” (01 Apr – from the <i>Times of India</i>). [Ed’s note: this story – in Hindi – says a short circuit is suspected. J.P Knits lists fcuk, Giordano, Champion, French Connection and Umbro , among others, as customers. This story , on 02 April, says firefighters were still mopping up a day later. See a video of the fire here .]
33	Fire in Cianjur apparel factory : Five fire trucks and 20 firefighters attended a fire at the PT Eastern Modern Apparel (EMA) factory on Thursday afternoon. The fire caused structural and material damage but there were no injuries. This article , in Indonesian, says the suspected cause is an electrical short circuit (30 Apr – in Indonesian from <i>Republika</i>). [Ed’s note: pictures of the fire can be found here on an employee’s Facebook page.]
34	Fire in Temanggung textile factory : Three textile factory warehouses owned by PT Sumber Makmur Anugerah (PT SMA) caught fire on 22 April, taking firefighters took about six hours to control. There were no casualties. The cause of the fire is under investigation (22 Apr – in Indonesian from <i>Radar Semarang</i>).

35	Fire at sewing thread factory in West Bandung : A large fire engulfed PT Victory Pan Multitex in West Bandung on Sunday evening. The factory is adjacent to a building housing a high school/vocational school and is sited opposite a petrol station; flames threatened both. Because of Covid-19, the factory was operating at partial capacity, and employees were on a meal break when the fire broke out. For were injured (says this report – in Indonesian); three with smoke inhalation, and one who suffered burns to his arms and legs after falling into water heated by the fire. All were treated at hospital. Building suffered 90% damage and roof collapsed (20 Apr – in Indonesian from <i>BangBara</i>).
36	Fire at dyeing and towel manufacturing plant : On the evening of 14 April, there was a fire at Tsuzukibo Imabari [ツヅキボウ今治]. There were no injuries (15 Apr – in Japanese from <i>Yahoo! Japan</i>). [Ed's note: <i>Tsuzukibo Imabari</i> does dyeing, sewing, and embroidery and is known for its white face towels, made with a patented technology called the "Imabari Honjira (TZ acidic enzyme method)". See here , in Japanese, for more.]
37	Fire in Daegu weaving mill : 70 firefighters fought a fire in a Daegu weaving mill for an hour before bringing the blaze under control. There were no casualties and the cause of the fire is under investigation (29 Apr – in Korean from <i>KBS News</i>).
38	Fire in a Seoul apparel factory : A fire broke out in an apparel factory on the second floor of a four-storey building in Seoul. It took firefighters about 50 minutes to extinguish. There were no injuries, but a resident who lived on the top floor had to be evacuated (14 Apr – in Korean from <i>KBS</i>).
39	Fire service staff hospitalised, as inferno engulfs company in Ikorodu : "A staff of the Lagos State Fire Service, Adeleke Ajenifuja , is currently receiving treatment, after being caught in harms way in the line of duty, as Mateco , a slippers manufacturing company, based in Odogunyan, Ikorodu was engulfed by fire" (01 Apr – from <i>This Day</i>).
40	Fire destroys garment factory in Ipoh : "A fire destroyed a garment and stocking factory on Jalan Industri Kecil Bercham 7 yesterday morning. Ipoh Fire and Rescue Station Operations Chief Azman Hussin said the fire engulfed 90 per cent of the 20,000 square foot factory ... the factory was closed following the implementation of the Movement Control Order (MCO)" (09 Apr – from the <i>Borneo Bulletin</i>).
41	Spinning mill burns in Puebla : The warehouse of Hilaturas Roca [Roca Spinning] caught fire on Monday afternoon resulting in material damage but no casualties. Firefighters took 40 minutes to extinguish the blaze (20 Apr – in Spanish from <i>e-Consulta</i>).
42	Fire at shoe factory in Sheikhpura : A fire at the Waqar Rubber Factory has left one employee hospitalised due to smoke inhalation. He was transported to hospital unconscious. The fire resulted from a short circuit. Three fire units attended (30 Apr – in Urdu from <i>QBN News</i>).
43	Fire in Okara factory : "A fire broke out in a private factory on Depalpur Road in Okara, Punjab. The cause of the fire is still unknown" (24 Apr – in Urdu from <i>Baaghi TV</i>). [Ed's note: this post , in Urdu, notes the fire was at a cotton factory.]
44	Fire at garment warehouse in Karachi : A fire broke out at a garment warehouse in the Baldia area of Karachi. Two fire units attended. No injuries. Cause is unknown (08 Apr – in Urdu from <i>Bol News</i>).
45	Karachi mask making factory catches fire : A sewing factory making masks has been burned to ashes in Karachi's Orangi Town area. The fire was caused by a short circuit. No injuries occurred (08 Apr – from <i>Dialogue Pakistan</i>).
46	Fire erupts at garment factory in Karachi's Gulberg : "A fire broke out at a garment factory in Karachi's Gulberg Block 12 Saturday morning. According to residents, the fire brigade was immediately called after black smoke spewed from the factory. Three trucks arrived at the site and have been trying to put out the fire. No deaths took place nor was anyone hurt, confirmed the rescue team, adding that the factory was vacated in time" (04 Apr – from <i>SAMAA</i>). [Ed's note: this story , in Urdu, says the factory did embroidery.]

47	Fire at mink farm : The fire took place on 21 April in the town of Dębówiec, in the commune of Koźmin Wlkp, and destroyed animal sheds along with all animals. Cause of the fire unknown (25 Apr – in Polish from <i>Farmer</i>).
48	Fire at production plant in Baranów Sandomierski : The fire broke out in a one-story building, which houses a factory producing haberdashery products, including knitted and plaited tapes, thread and other products. Preliminary findings show that the fire the inside the building and the roof. The cause of the fire is unknown (04 Apr – in Polish from <i>Nowiny24</i>).
49	52 firefighters fight fire in textile factory in the municipality of Barcelos : A fire in a warehouse owned by textile manufacturer Fiarel – Sociedade Fiandeira de Barcelos has destroyed the building. The facility was not in operation at the time. No injuries reported (07 Apr – in Portuguese from <i>O Minho</i>).
50	Fire at a textile factory in Kineshma : A fire in a textile factory in Kineshma, Ivanovo, required 52 firefighters and eight units to bring under control. No injuries. The cause is under investigation (08 Apr – in Russian from <i>Tass</i>).
51	Fire consumes two garment factories in New Taipei City : A fire in a factory on the ground floor of an industrial building has spread to two garment factories located above it on the second floor. One of the factories contained a significant amount of flammable materials, which accelerated the fire. 61 fire trucks attended. There were no casualties (29 Apr – in Chinese from <i>Apple Daily</i>).
52	Textile factory fire in Taichung : A textile factory fire on the second floor of a three-story factory building was extinguished in about 30 minutes by firefighters. There were no injuries. The cause of the fire is unknown (28 Apr – in Chinese from <i>China Times</i>).
53	Fire at non-woven fabric factory in Tainan : A fire broke out at a factory owned by Universal Incorporation , which produces non-woven fabrics, in Tainan. It is understood the fire originated in an oil tank with a diameter of about 2 meters next to the staff dormitory. The fire was brought under control and there were no injuries. Nobody was trapped at the scene (25 Apr – in Chinese from <i>China Times</i>). [Ed's note: this article , in Chinese, says the fire started accidentally as workers handled waste oil. <i>Universal Corporation [恆大]</i> is a publicly listed producer of non-woven fabric headquartered in Taipei, with manufacturing facilities in Tainan and Xiamen, China. It produces spunlaid and meltblown products, including diapers, sanitary napkins, protective clothing and medical masks.]
54	Fire in a garment factory in Cherahil : A fire in a garment factory in Cherahil has destroyed 25% of the factory and an order of 4,000 pieces ready for export to England and Portugal next week. The factory employs 160 workers. The cause of the fire was an electrical malfunction (24 Mar – in French from <i>Babnet Tunisie</i>).
55	Fire at the spinning mill in Gaziantep : A fire broke out in the warehouse of a spinning mill. There were no injuries. Firefighters extinguished the flames in a short time (30 Apr – in Turkish from <i>CNN Turk</i>).
56	Fire at a textile factory in Kahramanmaraş : A fire in a textile factory warehouse in Gaziantep Road was extinguished by 35 firefighters in 12 units after two hours. There was material damage but no injuries (01 Apr – in Turkish from <i>Medya Gazete</i>).
57	Fire at a textile factory in Kahramanmaraş : Firefighters controlled a fire quickly after arrival at the Boymar Textile Industry and Trade Company (a knit fabric manufacturer located on Yıldırım Beyazıt Avenue). There were no injuries, as the factory has been closed for some time due to COVID-19. The cause of the fire is unknown (01 Apr – in Turkish from <i>TRT Haber</i>). [Ed's note: video footage here .]

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