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Hotline Alarm Notification and Detection Assistant (H.A.N.D.A.): Ensuring Fire Safety with Instant Alerts for Residents using IoT

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Abstract—**The Hotline Alarm Notification and Detection Assistant (H.A.N.D.A.) is an IoT-based fire alert system designed to enhance residential fire safety through real-time detection and instant alerts. Integrating IR flame, smoke/gas, and temperature/humidity sensors with microcontrollers, the system monitors fire-related risks and transmits alerts via a dedicated Android application. Notifications are sent within 5–8 seconds of detection, and users can access emergency hotlines immediately. H.A.N.D.A. achieved an 88% detection accuracy and reduced false alarms by 83%. Usability testing showed 90% of users responded to alerts within 10 seconds, confirming the system's effectiveness, reliability, and user-friendliness. This study demonstrates H.A.N.D.A.'s potential in advancing fire safety and emergency responsiveness.**

Keywords—IoT, fire detection, real-time alert, Android app, emergency response, sensor-based monitoring, H.A.N.D.A.

I. INTRODUCTION

Fire remains one of the most destructive hazards, endangering lives, property, and infrastructure. In 2024, the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) reported 18,217 fire incidents across the Philippines, with 2,442 cases recorded in the first quarter of 2025 alone [1]. Common causes include faulty wiring, unattended flames, and overloaded circuits. Traditional fire alarm systems, though helpful, often lack real-time remote alerts, making them ineffective when homeowners are away. Prior studies (Sy et al., 2024; Talaat et al., 2023; Lakshmi et al., 2023) have identified limitations in accuracy, response speed, and remote monitoring in existing systems[2].

To address these issues, the Hotline Alarm Notification and Detection Assistant (H.A.N.D.A.) was developed. It integrates advanced sensors with an Android application to provide early fire detection and real-time alerts, including emergency hotlines and location-based information, thereby enhancing emergency response and reducing property damage.

A. Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of this study is to design and develop an Internet of Things (IoT)-based system named *Hotline Alarm Notification and Detection Assistant (H.A.N.D.A.)*, aimed at enhancing fire safety for residents by providing instant alerts and facilitating faster emergency response. The study specifically aims to:

1. **Develop** an integrated IoT-based fire alert system that supports remote monitoring and real-time notification to improve the detection, alerting, and response processes during fire incidents.

2. **Integrate** a camera module into the IoT system to enhance the accuracy of fire detection, reduce the likelihood of false alarms, and enable visual confirmation of fire events.

3. **Design** a user-centric mobile application that allows users to receive alerts, monitor sensor data

remotely, and quickly access emergency contact functions.

4. **Evaluate** the system's overall effectiveness based on the following criteria:

    - **Reliability** – Assessing the system's consistency in detecting fire-related events and delivering alerts.

    - **Functionality** – Validating the correctness of detection algorithms, alert mechanisms, and emergency call features.

    - **Performance** – Measuring responsiveness, accuracy, and real-time data processing efficiency.

    - **Usability** – Evaluating the interface design, ease of navigation, and overall user experience of the mobile application.

Significance of the Study

The proposed study offers considerable contributions to enhancing fire safety by minimizing the delay between fire outbreak detection and emergency response. Its implementation presents multifaceted benefits for various stakeholders, including residents, emergency responders, local government units, community organizations, and the research community.

Residents – As primary beneficiaries, residents gain access to a real-time fire monitoring system that strengthens household safety. Through remote surveillance capabilities and instant alerts, the system reduces the risk of fire-related injuries, fatalities, and property loss.

Emergency Services – The system supports firefighters, paramedics, and other responders by delivering detailed, real-time data on the location, scale, and severity of fire incidents. This enhanced situational awareness can significantly improve response time and operational efficiency, increasing the likelihood of life-saving interventions and minimized structural damage.

Local Government – The H.A.N.D.A. system aligns with public safety and disaster preparedness initiatives. Its deployment reflects the government's commitment to safeguarding communities and modernizing emergency management protocols using technology-driven solutions.

Community Organizations – NGOs and NGAs engaged in disaster risk reduction can utilize the system for public awareness campaigns, community fire drills, and coordinated emergency response planning. By integrating such technologies, these organizations enhance resilience at the grassroots level and contribute to a culture of safety and preparedness.

Researchers – The study creates opportunities for further research and innovation in fire detection, smart alert systems, and emergency communication technologies. The H.A.N.D.A. system provides a platform for integrating emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and edge computing in the context of public safety, thereby fostering continuous improvement and academic exploration.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED SYSTEMS AND LITERATURES

This chapter contains the review of related literature that was used and searched by the proponents from 2019 to 2024.

A. IoT-Based Fire Alarm System

IoT-based fire alarm systems utilize interconnected sensors to monitor environmental parameters such as smoke, temperature, and gas in real time, transmitting data instantly to alert residents and authorities. In Taguig City, Kamil et al. [3] demonstrated how such systems improve detection accuracy and reduce emergency response times. Integrated GPS enhances location tracking, enabling responders to navigate efficiently and prioritize high-risk areas. Mahgoub et al. [4] implemented GSM-based alerts to deliver real-time notifications remotely, while edge computing approaches [5] minimized latency by processing data near the source, supporting deployment in smart city environments.

B. Remote Monitoring and Alerting

Remote monitoring and alerting systems integrated with IoT technologies provide critical real-time data transmission that enhances fire detection and emergency response. Traditional sensors detect fire indicators such as smoke or temperature but lack the capacity for remote alerting and location-specific updates, especially in large or hard-to-reach areas. Ehsan *et al.* [6] demonstrated an IoT-based fire alarm navigation system utilizing GSM and cloud platforms to transmit immediate alerts to rescue departments, enabling responders to access live incident data. Similarly, Chinchmalatpure *et al.* [7] developed a smart fire detection system with GSM modules, allowing real-time tracking and remote notifications to predefined contacts. These systems reduce manual intervention and support safer, faster decision-making in hazardous environments. Cloud computing further enhances remote access to sensor data, as shown by Debnath [8], who implemented a cloud-based fire alert system that prioritized real-time notifications across multiple locations. By incorporating remote monitoring, predictive analytics, and AI, modern systems can evaluate sensor data contextually to reduce false alarms and improve detection accuracy.

C. Impact of Early Warning Systems

Early warning systems significantly improve fire response by enabling timely detection and communication. Espinosa et al. [9] introduced the Advanced Fire Alarm System (A-FAST), which enhances early detection and enables rapid intervention. Talaat and Eldin [10] demonstrated how deep learning models like YOLO-v8 can increase detection accuracy in smart environments. Sowah et al. [11] proposed a model combining multi-sensor input, fuzzy logic, and convolutional neural networks to reduce false alarms and improve reliability. Similarly, Hanafi et al. [12] developed FiOna, an IoT-enabled fire alarm that allows continuous remote monitoring. GSM-based systems further strengthen communication by transmitting alerts to responders instantly [13]. These advancements in AI, IoT, and sensor integration ensure faster, more accurate, and remotely accessible fire alerts, which are essential for minimizing risks in modern fire safety systems.

D. Integration of Camera Module in Fire Detection Systems

Integrating camera modules into fire detection systems significantly enhances accuracy, situational awareness, and emergency response capabilities. Traditional methods using temperature and smoke sensors often produce false alarms due to environmental factors like steam or dust. Camera-based fire detection, supported by image processing, IoT, and AI, enables real-time visual confirmation and pattern analysis, reducing such errors.Lee et al. [14] demonstrated the benefits of fisheye camera integration on a Raspberry Pi platform, showing improved coverage and reduced blind spots in fire-prone areas. Visual data analysis enables systems to distinguish between actual fire incidents and benign heat sources. Samudrala et al. [15] further improved this concept by integrating high-resolution imaging and motion sensors into an IoT fire alarm system. Their approach enhanced detection accuracy and provided critical data on human presence during fire events.Yang et al. [16] utilized edge computing alongside cloud-based platforms to reduce latency and accelerate alert transmission. Their system processed image data locally for faster analysis while cloud integration allowed seamless communication with emergency services. This hybrid setup enhanced real-time decision-making and minimized delays in response.

Camera modules also improve situational awareness by offering live visual feeds, allowing emergency responders to assess fire severity and prioritize interventions. Combined with AI and machine learning, these systems can learn from previous incidents to improve detection algorithms. Image-based systems can evaluate flame color, spread, and smoke density to predict fire behavior and growth, strengthening proactive risk mmanagement.

2.1 Conceptual Framework

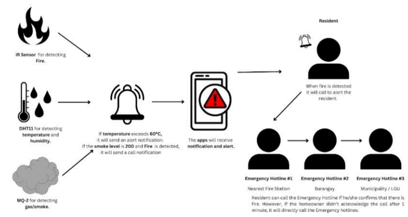


Figure 1. Conceptual framework

The figure above illustrates the conceptual framework of the system. When the temperature exceeds 60°C, the system issues a warning notification to alert the residents. If smoke levels surpass 200 and a fire is detected, the system upgrades the alert to a call notification for immediate attention. If the residents fail to respond within one minute, the system automatically escalates the alert to the appropriate emergency contact, ensuring a prompt response from emergency services.

The escalation process begins by notifying the nearest fire station. If no response is received, the system contacts the local barangay. The alert is further escalated to the municipal or local government unit (LGU) if necessary. This step-by-step notification ensures that emergency responders are informed, even if the primary user cannot act promptly.

To enhance detection, the H.A.N.D.A. system utilizes multiple sensors, including an MQ2 sensor for detecting smoke and harmful gases, a flame sensor for fire identification, and a DHT11 sensor for monitoring temperature and humidity. These sensors continuously relay data to the microcontroller, which assesses the information and activates the alert system when thresholds are exceeded. Combining these features into an automated response system, the H.A.N.D.A. enhances fire safety for Quezon City residents, ensuring quick alerts and responses during fire emergencies.

III. METHODOLOGY

This chapter outlines the materials used, system design, and methods applied in developing and evaluating the H.A.N.D.A. system.

3.1 Materials

The development of the Hotline Alarm Notification and Detection Assistant (H.A.N.D.A.) system required various hardware and software components. The primary microcontroller used was the Arduino Uno, which served as the central processing unit, handling data from all connected sensors. An ESP32-CAM microcontroller was integrated into the system to capture real-time images and transmit data via Wi-Fi to the database. The detection system utilized an IR Flame Sensor to identify infrared light emitted by fire, a MQ-2 Gas/Smoke Sensor to measure smoke concentration in parts per million (PPM), and a DHT11 Sensor to monitor ambient temperature and humidity levels. Power was supplied through two 3.7V batteries connected in series. On the software side, Arduino IDE was used for firmware development, while Android Studio and Kotlin were used to develop the mobile application. Google Firebase acted as the real-time database, enabling synchronized data flow between hardware and mobile devices. Additionally, Twilio API was used to automate emergency voice calls to designated contacts in case the user failed to acknowledge the alert within a set timeframe.

3.2 System Design of the Project

The H.A.N.D.A. system was designed as an IoT-based fire detection and alert notification that enabled real-time monitoring of environmental conditions and automated call emergency response. The system continuously gathered data from the IR flame sensor, MQ-2 smoke and gas sensor, and DHT11 temperature and humidity sensor, all connected to the Arduino Uno microcontroller. This microcontroller processed the sensor data and determined whether a potential fire hazard was present. When the monitored values exceeded defined thresholds specifically, a temperature > 60°C and a smoke > 200 PPM, the ESP32-CAM module was activated to capture a real-time image of the monitored area. This image was then uploaded to the database. Concurrently, the system sent immediate call alert notifications to the user's mobile application. If the user did not respond within one minute, the system utilized Twilio to automatically initiate voice calls to the first, second, and third emergency contacts in sequence. This design ensured that all potential hazards were both visually verified and promptly escalated, significantly reducing false alarms and enhancing emergency responsiveness.

3.3 Block Diagram

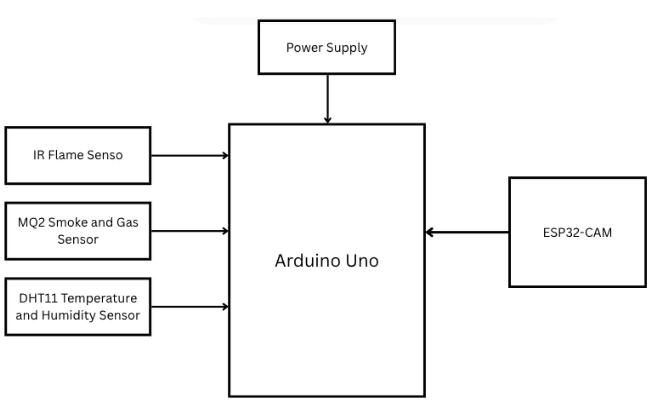


Figure 2: Block Diagram of the Project

3.4 Statistical Analysis

To evaluate the reliability and effectiveness of the H.A.N.D.A. system, several statistical methods were employed. Reliability testing was conducted through a controlled series of repeated trials to assess the consistency and accuracy of the flame, smoke, and temperature sensors. Ten trials were performed for each sensor type to ensure statistically valid measurements across different environmental conditions. This number of trials provided a reliable sample size to identify detection trends, performance anomalies, and consistency of outputs. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including mean, success rate, and standard deviation, to quantify sensor accuracy and ensure dependable fire hazard detection.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This section discusses the prototype design and the results of reliability, functionality, usability testing , and overall performance. Multiple tests were conducted to assess how effectively the system detected fire-related hazards, transmitted alerts, and engaged emergency protocols. The testing also verified the system's ability to handle real-time data, maintain uptime, and minimize false alarms.

4.1 Prototype Design of the Project

Figure 3. Prototype Design

The prototype of the H.A.N.D.A. system was built with a compact, custom-designed octagonal casing that houses the core components, including the MQ-2 gas and smoke sensor, flame sensor, DHT11 temperature and humidity sensor, and ESP32-CAM module. The casing features ventilation slots for accurate air sampling and is structured to protect the internal electronics while maintaining sensor exposure. The visible metallic mesh at the center is the MQ-2 sensor, positioned for optimal smoke and gas detection. Circular cutouts allow clear access for the flame sensor and camera lens, enabling image capture and hazard verification. The enclosure is lightweight and portable, designed for wall or ceiling mounting in residential environments, and reflects practical implementation of fire safety technology in real-world conditions.

4.2 Fire Detection Accuracy

The system was tested to measure the accuracy of each sensor under simulated fire hazard conditions. Each sensor underwent 10 test trials.

Sensor Type	No. of Trials	Successful Detections	Failed Detections	Accuracy (%)
IR Flame Sensor	10	9	1	90%
MQ-2 Smoke/Gas Sensor	10	10	0	100%
DHT11 Temperature /Humidity Sensor	10	10	0	100%

Table 1. Fire Detection Accuracy

The table 1 showed that the IR flame sensor detected 9 out of 10 fire events, resulting in 90% accuracy. The one failure was due to environmental interference such as airflow disturbance. The MQ-2 sensor and DHT11 sensor both performed flawlessly, demonstrating 100% accuracy in detecting smoke, gas, temperature, and humidity changes.

4.3 System Uptime and Stability

The system was operated continuously for 24 hours to evaluate its uptime, failure rate, and recovery performance.

Metric	Value	Description
Uptime	99.17%	System was operational most of the time
Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF)	24 hrs	Lasted full day before encountering an issue
Mean Time to Repair (MTTR)	12 mins	Quick recovery after network interruption
Error Rate	5%	Minor inaccuracies due to environmental factors

Table 2. Uptime and Stability Metrics

The system maintained a high uptime of 99.17%, showing it was available nearly the entire testing period. A single brief failure due to network loss was resolved within 12 minutes. The 5% error rate was within acceptable limits, attributed mostly to environmental inconsistencies affecting sensor readings.

4.4 System Response and Notification Delay

Response and notification delay were measured from the moment a fire hazard was detected to the time the alert reached the user or emergency contacts.

Feature	Time (ms)	Remarks
Fire Detection	4000	Sensor activated upon detection
Alert Notification	4200	Alert reached user's mobile device
ESP32-CAM Image Capture	3100	Image captured and uploaded to Firebase
Emergency Call Activation	5000–8000	Triggered call alert via Twilio
Mobile App Notification Display	1000	Alert displayed promptly on-screen

Table 3. Response and Notification Delay

The system successfully detected fire events and responded within an average of 4 seconds. Alert notifications were delivered in 4.2 seconds, while emergency calls were activated within 5 to 8 seconds. Image verification via ESP32-CAM was achieved in 3.1 seconds, confirming the presence of a hazard. These results indicated fast and effective real-time alert handling.

4.5 Load Testing Results

A 24-hour load test was performed to evaluate system performance under continuous operation with periodic sensor readings and data transmission.

Parameter	Value	Remarks
Total Requests Sent	17,280	Sent every 5 seconds
Successful Requests	17,215 (99.62%)	System handled high request volume
Failed Requests	65 (0.38%)	Mostly due to temporary network latency
Average Response Time	5000 ms	Timely sensor and alert processing
Server Latency (Firebase)	1600 ms	Acceptable transmission delay

Table 4. Load Testing Results

Table 4 shows that, out of 17,280 requests, 99.62% were successfully processed, proving the system's efficiency. The 0.38% failure rate was mainly caused by minor connectivity issues. Firebase cloud integration responded well under load, with an average latency of 1600 ms and total system response time of 5000 ms.

4.6 Usability Evaluation

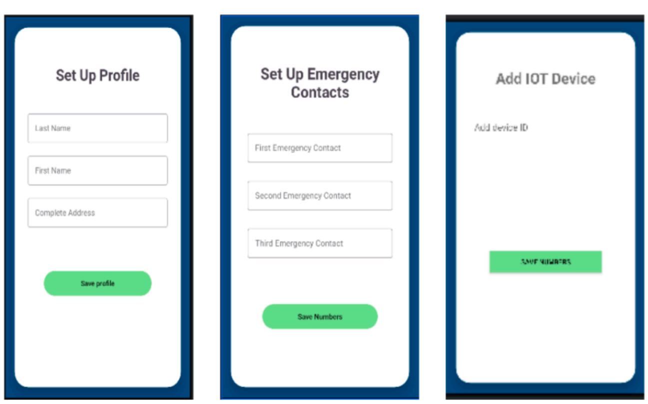
A user evaluation with 5 participants was conducted to assess the usability, interface responsiveness, and satisfaction with the mobile application.

Usability Metric	Average Rating (out of 5)	Remarks
Ease of Navigation	4.9	Simple and intuitive interface
Notification Visibility	4.8	Alerts were clear and immediate
Button Responsiveness	200 ms	Buttons responded without delay
Design Consistency	95%	Uniform UI elements across screens
Overall Satisfaction	4.7	High user confidence in the system

Table 5. User Interface and Experience Ratings

Users found the app easy to navigate and quick to respond. Notification alerts were clear and prominently displayed. Minor suggestions were made for design enhancements, but the overall experience was highly positive, supporting the app's readiness for deployment.

4.7 User Interface



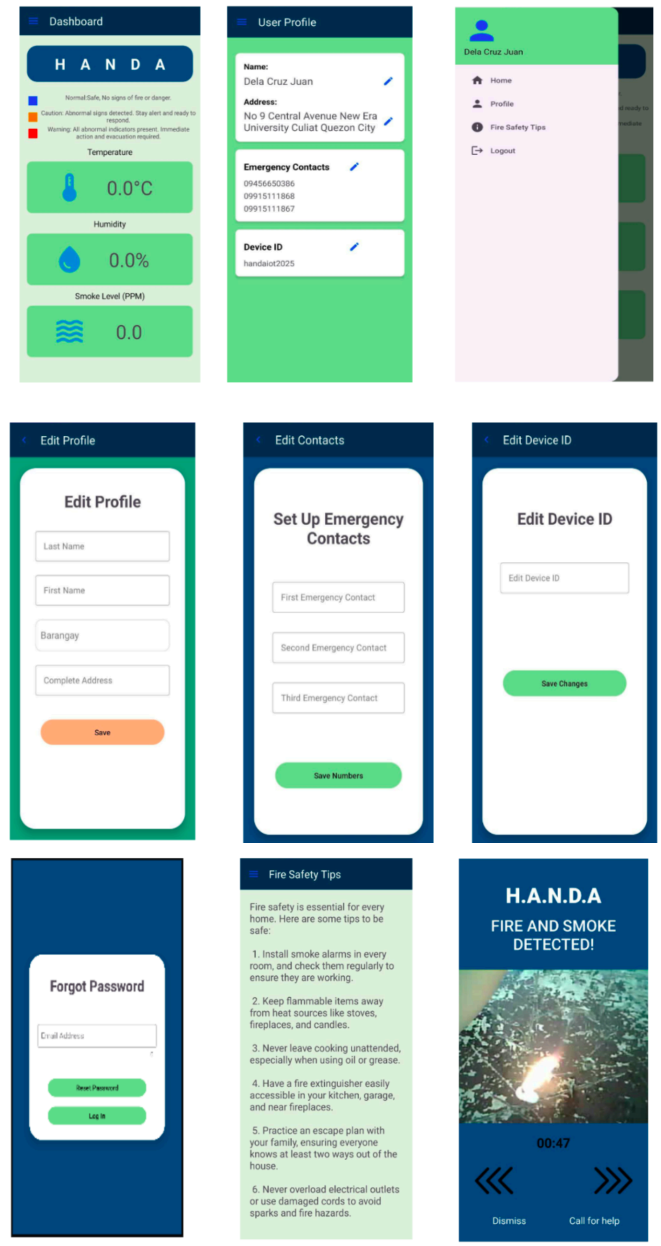


Figure 4. User Interface

V. CONCLUSIONS

The Hotline Alarm Notification and Detection Assistant (H.A.N.D.A.) system successfully achieved its objective of providing an efficient and responsive IoT-based fire detection and alert solution for residential safety. By integrating multiple environmental sensors, visual monitoring through the ESP32-CAM, and real-time mobile notifications, the system demonstrated its capability to deliver accurate alerts and initiate timely emergency escalation. Performance evaluations confirmed high detection accuracy, minimal response delays, and positive user feedback. Although the current implementation depends on stable internet connectivity and supports only Android devices, the system provides a solid foundation for future enhancements in fire safety technology. Overall, H.A.N.D.A. shows strong potential in reducing fire-related risks and improving emergency response in residential communities.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

To further improve and expand the capabilities of the H.A.N.D.A. system, the following recommendations are suggested for future studies:

1. Develop Cross-Platform Compatibility: Extend the mobile application to support iOS to increase accessibility for all users, regardless of device type.

2. Improve Infrastructure Resilience: Integrate solar-powered sensors and explore the use of mesh networks to enhance system reliability in areas with unstable power or internet connectivity.

3. Integrate PTZ Camera: Add a Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) camera for wider surveillance coverage and real-time directional control to verify incidents visually and reduce false alarms.

4. Apply Artificial Intelligence: Use AI and machine learning to improve sensor data analysis, reduce false positives, and adapt to changing environmental patterns.

5. Ensure Data Privacy and Security: Implement strong encryption and compliance with data protection laws to secure user information and build trust in the system.

6. Regular Software Updates: Establish continuous system maintenance and feature enhancement through periodic updates based on user data and feedback.

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