

**SAFETY AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS IN PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS.  
A STUDY OF KAKUZI DIVISION, MURANG'A COUNTY**

**BY**

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**DECLARATION**

I declare that this research project is my original work and has not been presented in any other University for consideration of any certification. This research project has been complemented by referenced sources duly acknowledged. Where text, data, graphics, pictures or tables have been borrowed from other sources, including the internet, these are specifically accredited and references cited using current APA system and in accordance with ant-plagiarism regulations.

**SIGNATURE**

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**SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION:** This research project has been submitted for appraisal with our approval as University Supervisors

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## ABSTRACT

The safety of learners in some schools has been questionable due to recurrence of disasters. This study aimed at investigating the safety awareness and preparedness in public primary schools in Kakuzi division in Murang'a County. This study was guided by the following research questions; what type of disasters are affecting public primary schools? What is the level of safety awareness and preparedness in public primary schools? How is the school community prepared for a disaster occurrence in public primary schools? Are there measures put in place to enhance safety awareness and preparedness in public primary schools? The study might be of importance to the head teachers, teachers, students and education stakeholders to give priority to essential services such as security in relation to the school activities. The ministry of education may use the findings to guide the formulation of policies, plan for revamping and improving on existing policies and practices in public primary schools. The study employed descriptive research design because it is suitable in comprehending both quantitative and qualitative data. The researcher used random sampling to select schools and teachers as well as learners and purposive sampling to select head teachers. The questionnaire was the main data collection instruments but the researcher also used an observation schedule. The data was analysed using the SPSS package and the analysed data was presented in tables, percentage and pie-charts. The main findings in the study include; playground and hygiene related disasters are the main disasters in public primary schools; there was low safety awareness and preparedness among the school community; public primary schools lack safety standard manuals; teachers have not been offered refresher courses on school safety; public primary schools lack disaster response teams; the measures put in place by public primary schools include clearing bushes, fencing school compound and digging rubbish pits. The study made the following recommendations; refresher courses on school safety should be offered to head teachers and teachers in public primary schools; schools should improve infrastructure to cater for pupils with special needs; head teachers should put in place disaster response teams; public primary schools should be provided with fire extinguishers; water points should be put near sanitary facilities for pupils to wash hands after visiting school latrines.