



# FIRE SAFE MUMBAI

## AN INTERNATIONAL CONCLAVE

PRESENTED BY CREDAI-MCHI

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### FIRE SAFE MUMBAI 2018

AN INTERNATIONAL CONCLAVE

While Mumbai's burgeoning infrastructure and unbridled urbanisation keeps stretching to new limits, the phenomenon is also fraught with major hazards, fire being the most potential of them. In the recent past, the megapolis has been witness to a spate of fire incidents that have not only seen extensive damage caused to property but also loss of precious lives.



**Dr. Prabhat Rahangdale**

Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade and Director Maharashtra Fire Services

These incidents could have been averted if only wisdom and due care would have been exercised in adopting fire safety measures that the authorities are at pains to enunciate from time to time.

The clarion call by Dr Prabhat Rahangdale "Help Us to Help You" is not merely an appeal but a strong petition for the installation of fire safety equipment as per the guidelines laid down by the Fire Department.

The Times of India felt an urgent need to create awareness among all the stakeholders to take appropriate measures to prevent the incidents of fire instead of solely depending on the Fire Brigade and had organised a One-Day Conclave "Fire Safe Mumbai" to deliberate upon issues concerning Fire Safety involving all the stakeholders.

The One-Day Conclave held on September 29, 2018 at the Mumbai Fire Brigade HQ, By-culla invoked very good response from the members of associations like MCHI, FPAI, FSAI, AHAR. The Event was attended by D K Shami, Fire Advisor, Ministry of Home, Government of India and S K Dheri, Chairman National Building Code.

The conclave had 4 sessions of panel discussions touching upon fire safety issues of high-rise buildings, new DCR & NBC, fire safety with electrical installations and fire safety in the hospitality industry. The day witnessed intense deliberations on each of the subjects and invited queries from the well informed audience too.

The conclave concluded with an award ceremony to recognise the meritorious fire officials of Mumbai Fire Brigade.

## Volunteers can assist in a big way



**Vishwanath Mahadeshwar**  
Hon. Mayor of Mumbai

Fire safety has always been a major policy thrust area for the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM). It goes without saying that preparedness, training, equipment, public involvement in various fire safety initiatives, etc have played a pivotal role in the past to bring down the cost of fire disasters in terms of lives lost and damage to property.

The Mumbai Fire Brigade has been actively pursuing a proactive role in disaster management so that people are aware of their responsibilities and are better equipped to rescue themselves in dire situations.

The preparedness for fire safety also leads to the conclusion that response to fire call is not the end in itself. The emergence of strong public participation by way of creating a Swayamsevak Group in the city - made of ordinary citizens - who have evinced keen interest in being part of the rescue operations has proved immensely helpful during fire-fighting situations.

Chief Fire Officer of Mumbai Prabhat Rahangdale is working on a plan to bring together 7,000 swayamsevaks who will be on a 24x7 standby mode to meet any exigency. Even when a major fire breaks out, there is better coordination between the swayamsevaks and the professional fire-fighters with clear understanding of directions and messages between them. This helps the Mumbai Fire Brigade to get instant information about the exact location and scale of fire immediately upon reaching the spot.

Mumbai Fire Brigade has been able to meet all the challenges that the city has thrown at them. It has made them one of the best fire-fighting teams in the country although a lot more needs to be done. The involvement of the stakeholders has also been very encouraging. There has been a constant push from the civic body to enhance training and upgradation of skills, afford better social facilities for the firemen and ensuring a better infrastructure. In my opinion, the Mumbai Fire Brigade would be the best among its peers anywhere else in the world.

## "COMPLIANCE SHOULD COME AUTOMATIC WITHOUT POLICING"

The more you sweat in peace the less you bleed in war, is an army adage that one can see in almost all the army posts in India. The statement is loaded with meaning though its import may not be easily understood by common people, explained Ajoy Mehta, Municipal Commissioner of Mumbai, during the Fire Safe Mumbai 2018 event. According to him, there are five basic parameters of fire safety. The first one is about the rules and regulations made by the authorities for various real estate verticals like restaurants, hotels, malls, residential, commercial, mixed-use and other structures in the city.



**Ajoy Mehta-IAS**  
Commissioner  
Municipal Corporation  
of Greater Mumbai

### Making implementable rules

The fire clearance certification has to be implementable. "Don't make rules and regulations that people won't be able to follow. Rules should be in keeping with ground conditions. They should be such that they evoke compliance" said Mehta.

In the new DCR for Mumbai, the municipality has made sure that the rules are implementable and people would voluntarily follow them. "But at the same time, also offer a degree of security that the city needs so that all the inhabitants of the city can feel safe under the regulations. One must realise that there is nothing called a perfect rule."

### We must guard against bad compliance

Second, compliance to rules and regulations should happen automatically. There should be no need to force people or police them to implement the rule. "But there is also the aspect of bad compliance because of vague rules which then becomes a source of corruption. Compliance has to be perfect. And people should also feel that they would face a major problem if they don't follow the rules," he added for good measure.

BMC has at times found that the compliance may not

reflect the intention of the rules as intended. "The impact might be quite different and then we need to make course-corrections, says Ajoy Mehta."

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### Training the citizens

Third, even after taking all the precautions if something goes wrong and there is a fire, the policy-makers must realise that the first responders are always the citizens who are working or present in the fire situation. The people in the vicinity of fire like those having a meal at a restaurant, the owner of the restaurant, the waiters, the cooks and the general public have to be trained in fire-fighting protocol. The first 10-20 minutes are the most crucial, and the fire is always small in the beginning. The first responders in most cases can avert a tragedy if they are trained, he said.

Ajoy Mehta also gave the example of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) exercise which can save lives when the first responder who is usually a friend, wife or husband. "With a simple CPR technique you can save the life of a heart attack victim or till the time the medical help reaches you. Mumbai

Fire Brigade has started a big initiative on first responders in case of fire. Even children are coming forward and talking about their ability to deal with the situation". Simple measures like not using the elevator during fire in the building, taking the stairway, keeping the fire exit clear and accessible for rescue operation, etc can go a long way in mitigating a tragedy.

It is very necessary that you ensure that the refuge areas in the modern tall buildings are clear. Once in a while get the water flow in the riser checked or check if the hose has been punctured. Various government agencies as well as private associations train people on such first responder protocols.

### Good governance comes with good equipment

The fourth most important aspect of fighting fire is to have a fully equipped fire brigade to deal with any situation in Mumbai. "Once upon a time we were direly lacking essential fire-fighting equipment required for a city like Mumbai with tall structures. But now that gap has been bridged with the latest technology

and equipment added to the armour: If Google Life can research how mankind can live for ever at least we can fight a fire effectively," said Ajoy Mehta giving the example of how forward thinking and pre-emptive moves are necessary in managing calamitous situations.

"Buying relevant equipment is very important. We have traffic issues, narrow streets, old buildings and several other incomparable situations in the city. Mumbai is a modern city and we need to have modern fire equipment on all counts. Whenever I am asked to inaugurate a new fire vehicle or equipment, my first prayer is that it doesn't come to a pass where it will be required to be used. I sincerely hope that people would see the best of fire engines and appreciate them though we should never be required to use them. But the equipment has to be there to meet any kind of emergency," averred Ajoy Mehta.

### Fitness and training of personnel paramount

It is also necessary that the fire-fighting equipment is ready to be put into action when there is the need for it. Finally, the people who man the fire brigade have to be fit, passionate and trained for the job. They should be able to do their job with finesse. The Mumbai municipality is now laying special emphasis on the training and fitness of the firemen. Passion for the job is also very necessary as the firemen would have to put their own lives at risk to save someone else's life.

"DON'T MAKE RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT PEOPLE WON'T BE ABLE TO FOLLOW. ENSURE THAT THE COMPLIANCE MACHINERY IS EFFECTIVE AND THOSE WHO DO NOT FOLLOW ARE PENALISED. MAKE NON-COMPLIANCE A DIFFICULT PROPOSITION. MODERN TECHNOLOGY TOGETHER WITH TRAINING OF BOTH STAFF AND CITIZENS WILL GO A LONG WAY TO DEAL WITH DISASTERS EFFECTIVELY."

## "The ambit of fire department has gone much beyond dousing fires"

Even though this conclave on fire safety is held with active participation from all stakeholders in the city, there is a need for all the deliberations in such forums and conclaves to be taken to their logical conclusion and put into practice, according to I A Kundan, IAS. She was a keynote speaker at the Fire Safe Mumbai 2018 International Conclave held on September 29, 2018. "I have been associated with disaster management for a long time. The understanding of disaster management is not yet as perfect as it ought to be. There has been a paradigm shift in public awareness about disaster management. The way various stakeholders are readying themselves to mitigate disasters of any kind is quite a heartening," she said.

Prior to the enactment of the disaster management Act 2005 the emphasis was more on response to disasters. Very little thought was given to the mitigation and prevention aspects of fire safety. Post-2005



**I A Kundan-IAS**  
Addl. Municipal Commissioner  
Municipal Corporation of  
Greater Mumbai

there has been a realisation that the response to disasters is good but why not introduce a robust system of prevention and mitigation? Improvisation has also been seen all over the country in terms of preventing disasters, according to Kundan.

### The premier position has been hard-earned

"In Maharashtra the implementation of the policy has been very good owing to the awareness amongst not just the people but also

THE COMPLIANCE FOR FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY BY REAL ESTATE HAS TO BE OVERSEEN BY THE FIRE BRIGADE TO CHECK IF THE BMC REGULATIONS AND THE FIRE SAFETY ACT HAS BEEN COMPLIED WITH. IN ALL THIS, IT IS OFTEN NOTED THAT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS TO PLAY A COMPLEX AND CHALLENGING ROLE

among the policy makers. In every district there is an authority which lays down standard operating procedures (SOPs) and risk assessments. The control room in BMC should rank as the best in the country by any standards," she said.

There is also a good coordination with the emergency support functions (ESFs) and the communication network, even as the infrastructure at the zonal level is well laid down. Kundan was of the opinion that the fire department is a crucial agency, and it is acknowledged that Mumbai Fire Brigade is working to the expectations of its stakeholders including the general public. "But we have tremendous scope for improvisation. The awareness these days about fire disasters and mitigation is huge. The creation of the City Disaster Management Force by the Mumbai Mahanagar Palika (BMC) is a novel and exemplary idea," she added.

All these new initiatives in the city go a long way in handling a

disaster situation whenever it happens. Mumbai is known to be moderately vulnerable to all disasters. But the silver lining is that Mumbai is not extremely vulnerable - be it cyclone or tsunami. Preparedness has thus become top priority.

### Acceptance is better if the stakeholders are part of the solution

Fire department has been in the limelight for some time now and that has led to self-introspection. The government and the policy makers will have to keep the stakeholders involved whether it is about eating-house licence or caterers, or any other services offered by private parties. Acceptance becomes better if the stakeholders are part of the solution. "We also get a better insight when stakeholders are involved in the solutions. We have done a lot of interventions for permission at various levels of the approval authority," Kundan explained, adding that fire department's role goes beyond dousing the fire wherever it takes place.

The compliance for fire prevention and safety by real estate has to be overseen by the fire brigade to check if the BMC regulations and the fire safety Act has been complied with. In all this it is often noted that the fire department has to play a complex and challenging role. "Till now we have been done a great job, but we need to improvise it. We also need to check what intervention is required in DCR, better design to ensure accessibility of all inhabitable places in a building, etc. I am also aware of the fact that we have limitation of getting turntable ladders which will be of certain height, but solutions to various problems have been found quickly in the past," Kundan said.

## 'SLEW OF STEPS TO BOOST AWARENESS AMONG CITIZENS'

**RAM DHAS**, Deputy Commissioner, MCGM, shares the progress made while engaging Mumbaikars in fire safety and related efforts

### How has the role of Mumbai Fire Brigade expanded over the years?

Ever increasing population, infrastructure and rising number of buildings has been putting extra workload on fire brigade.

Initially, the Fire Brigade was setup as per the provision of Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act 1888 to discharge the obligatory duty of saving the life and property from fire.

However over a period of time, the Fire Brigade has been called to render the services for other emergencies such as building collapse, accidents, birds rescue, animal rescue, chemical hazards, oil spillages, tree collapse, drowning cases or any other incidences where the life is in trouble.

### What are some of the key initiatives taken to increase awareness about fire safety among Mumbaikars? What has been the response to these initiatives?

The Mumbai Fire Brigade is working on all fronts to sensitise all the stakeholders about issues pertaining to Fire Safety. The slogan of Mumbai Fire Brigade "Help us to Help you" suggests that everyone need to take precautionary measures to avoid incident in the first place. Mumbai Fire Brigade apart from upgrading its infrastructure is also engaged in organising various outreach programmes like conducting of fire drills in housing societies, offices, schools, hospitals etc.



**Ram Dhas**  
Deputy Commissioner  
Municipal Corporation  
of Greater Mumbai

The "Fire Volunteers" programme which started in 2015 has gained momentum and is expected to enroll over 50,000 Volunteers under 06 Regional Command Centres.

These volunteers will be from the respective locality and will be available immediately in case of disaster to help people at initial stage and also to help fire brigade once reached on scene of incident.

### What is the role of Mumbai Fire Brigade in case of disaster management?

In case of the disaster, the first responder is fire brigade. Mumbai Fire Brigade in conjunction with the Disaster Management Cell of MCGM has designed to provide a fundamental document outlining the Department's response to a wide range of emergency situations.

It is intended to provide a single basic operational plan, which may be expanded to meet any disaster situation regardless of whether the cause is manmade or by natural forces.

Specialized services of Mumbai Fire Brigade include ambulance services with emergency medical system, flood rescue team, beach safety unit, search and rescue team.

These specialised unit have been trained under professional guidance and the advance training is imparted time to time to mitigate the disaster in more effective way in the changing lifestyle.

POST-2005 THERE HAS BEEN A REALISATION THAT THE RESPONSE TO DISASTERS IS GOOD BUT WHY NOT INTRODUCE A ROBUST SYSTEM OF PREVENTION AND MITIGATION? IMPROVISATION HAS ALSO BEEN SEEN ALL OVER THE COUNTRY IN TERMS OF PREVENTING DISASTERS, ACCORDING TO KUNDAN

# VIGNETTES OF THE CONCLAVE



I A Kundan-IAS, Addl. Municipal Commissioner, MCGM inaugurating the Conclave



I A Kundan-IAS, Addl. Municipal Commissioner, MCGM lighting the ceremonial lamp



D K Shami, Fire Advisor, Ministry of Home, Government of India lighting the ceremonial lamp



Ram Dhas, Deputy Municipal Commissioner, MCGM lighting the ceremonial lamp



Dr. Prabhat Rahangdale, Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade and Director Maharashtra Fire Services lighting the ceremonial lamp



S K Dheri, Chairman National Building Code lighting the ceremonial lamp



Ajoy Mehta-IAS, Commissioner, MCGM sharing his views on Fire Safety



Dr. Prabhat Rahangdale, Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade and Director Maharashtra Fire Services greeting to D K Shami, Fire Advisor, Ministry of Home, Government of India



(L to R): S K Dheri, Chairman National Building Code; D K Shami, Fire Advisor, Ministry of Home, Government; Dr. Prabhat Rahangdale, Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade and Director Maharashtra Fire Services; Chaudhary R.A., Dy. Chief Officer (T), Mumbai Fire Brigade; Dr. Vikram Mehta, Managing Director, Spartan Engg. Ind. Pvt. Ltd.; Jadhav Y.R., Dy. Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade



(L to R): V Suresh, Vice Chairman, National Building Code; S K Dheri, Chairman National Building Code; Vinod Kapse of Kapse Consultants; Shashi Jadhav, Member PEATA; Satish Gite, Executive Engineer, Building Proposal (City), MCGM; Dr. Prabhat Rahangdale, Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade and Director Maharashtra Fire Services; Dominic Romell, Vice President, MCHI; Kale A.V., Dy. Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade



R A Venkitachalam, Advisor, IIT, Gandhinagar; V K Bajaj, COO, Apar Industries Ltd.; Rajkumar Panicker, Chairman - LV Switchgear Division, IEEMA, M P Cardoz, Cardoz Consulting Engineers; Dr. Prabhat Rahangdale, Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade and Director Maharashtra Fire Services; Sanjay Kale, Head Fire Safety, Tata Power; V Jagdish, Regional Business and Regulatory Head, UL



Pankaj Dharkar, International President, FSAI; Anurag Katriar, Mumbai Chapter Head NRAI, FSAI; Dr. Prabhat Rahangdale, Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade and Director Maharashtra Fire Services; S K Dheri, Chairman National Building Code; Mukesh Shah, Vice President, FPAI; Kamlesh Barot, Past President FHRAI; Santosh Shetty, President, AHAR



Dr. Prabhat Rahangdale, Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade and Director Maharashtra Fire Services presenting the conclave memento to Ajoy Mehta-IAS, Commissioner, MCGM



Dr. Prabhat Rahangdale, Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade and Director Maharashtra Fire Services presenting the conclave memento to I A Kundan-IAS, Addl. Municipal Commissioner, MCGM



Ajoy Mehta-IAS, Commissioner, MCGM presenting conclave memento to Pankaj Dharkar, International President, FSAI



Ajoy Mehta-IAS, Commissioner, MCGM presenting conclave memento to Mukesh Shah, Vice President, FPAI and Ashok Shah, Member FPAI



Ajoy Mehta-IAS, Commissioner, MCGM presenting conclave memento to Santosh Shetty, President, AHAR and Niranjan Shetty, Chairman BMC Committee AHAR



Ajoy Mehta-IAS, Commissioner, MCGM presenting conclave memento to Kamlesh Barot, Past President FHRAI



Umesh Palande, Sr. S.O., Mumbai Fire Brigade raising a query to the panelist at the conclave



H V Girkar, ADFO, Mumbai Fire Brigade receiving the Best Officer Award from Ajoy Mehta-IAS, Commissioner, MCGM



D K Ghosh, DFO, Mumbai Fire Brigade receiving toughest Fire Fighter Award from Ajoy Mehta, Commissioner, MCGM



The award winning Mumbai Fire Brigade personnel including medal winners of World Fire Fighting Games are all smiles on receiving the award from Ajoy Mehta-IAS, Commissioner, MCGM



S K Bandgar, ADFO, Mumbai Fire Brigade receiving the Best Officer Award from Ajoy Mehta-IAS, Commissioner, MCGM



# “Totally revamped, we are now geared up for all emergencies”: Rahangdale

Land is precious and scarce in Mumbai. The presence of residential and commercial estate is compounded by the presence of large number of industries - which manufacture anything from pickles to plastic bags - that dot the city's landscape. Take for instance Kalbadevi where small industries thrive in the narrow lanes along with micro-enterprises and other businesses. If Dharavi is an epicentre of small industry and tanneries, big industrial houses have operations in the east side of the city. The challenge of city management lies in the complex nature of its inhabitants.

“The cocktail mix of industry and residential complexes has thrown up its own challenges. We aim to provide the best aid to the inhabitants in any dire situation. However, what also matters is the societal and individual responses. Until three years ago we were in the process of building an effective platform but today we are fully geared up to meet all fire-related emergencies”, said Prabhakar Rahangdale, Chief Fire Officer, and Director of Maharashtra Fire Services.

Speaking at the International Fire Conclave on Fire Safety, Rahangdale spelled out the role of Emergency

Management services while taking stock of the situation in the last three years.

“The mission of the Emergency Management services, is to provide a programme and activity to the citizens and department to help the fire fighter cope up with recovery from the effects of natural and man-made disasters. We do this through all four phases of Emergency Management that is preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.”

To meet the mission challenge of a city like Mumbai is a marathon task. Still, to keep up with the present and

future challenges and learning from past experiences, Mumbai Fire Brigade has taken an initiative under the programme of “Programme on Enhancement of Emergency Response” (PEER). To address the mission statement of emergency management which is Preparedness, Response, Recovery and Mitigation. The PEER programme includes infrastructure development, capacity building, communication for better command control and coordination, enforcement and the most important being creating awareness about fire safety.

Under this programme, the officers

and men of MFB are dedicatedly working on the above objectives for deriving desired results for the Mission Statement of EM.

The objective of PEER is to create smart and safe city concept. In this context the Mumbai Fire Brigade initiated a five-pronged action plan in the last three years to attain the highest level of fire safety for the citizens. These include infrastructure, capacity building, communication for better command and control, enforcement and awareness programmes. Various actions taken under each initiative have been mentioned below.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Fire Stations

Considering the geographical topography of the city of Mumbai, development of infrastructure and population of the city, the minimum required number of fire stations is 60 against which the Mumbai Fire Brigade currently has 34 fire stations which are operational. To meet the shortfall of this fire station infrastructure, the PEER programme has included long-term and short-term strategies. Long-term strategy is of 10 years programme wherein the additional infrastructure will be set up. At the same time, old fire stations would be revamped as modern fire stations. In the past, Gowalia Tank and Dadar Fire Stations have undergone a revamp.

### Command Centres

MFB has in all six command centres as part of its decentralization process. Of the six command centres, five located at Byculla, Wadala, Borivali, Vikhroli and Mankhurd are operational. The sixth command centre at Marol is under construction.

### Regional Command Centres

For effective administrative and operational purposes, Mumbai is divided into six regional command centres.



### New Fire Stations

Kandarpada, Raheja (Malad West), Amboli village (Andheri West) will have new fire stations soon. Budgetary provisions have been made for the proposed fire stations at Kanjur Marg, Gorai, Ramabai Ambedkar Nagar (Ghatkopar West), Thakur Village (Kandivali East). Construction is likely to begin soon.

### Mini Fire Stations

In order to reach out to locations near densely populated jhuggies, zopdis and narrow lanes in the vicinity of high-rise residential and commercial properties, hospitals, schools etc, 17 Mini Fire Stations are proposed of which 12 are already in operation.



90-metre Hydraulic Platform



2 of the 17 Quick Response Vehicles inducted by MFB

## CAPACITY BUILDING

To support the infrastructure it is necessary to build its capacity for its effective utilization. The Mumbai Fire Brigade carries out various capacity building measures such as:

**Recruitment and Induction Drive** - 800 firemen recruited.

**Refresher Training conducted for employees**

**Drills:** Fire Combat 360 a drill involving 21 countries organized in Mumbai and participation in the drill of toughest fire fighter alive held in South Korea.

**Sport:** WFF Games and National Fire Service Games.



Annual Fire Drill Competition



International Fire Combat 360

**Fitness Centres & Gymnasium:** All the six command centres have a modern gymnasium facility which will also be made available at all the fire stations soon.

**Training Centres:** A modernized training centre is proposed at Thakur Village fire station.

## COMMUNICATION FOR BETTER COMMAND AND CONTROL

- Conversion from analogue to digital communication system
- Digital Communication Integrated with Command and Control
- Better Coordination with all the stakeholders like Police, Civil Defence, NDRF, Home Guards, BEST, Electricity

- Suppliers, Ward Offices etc
- Dissemination of Information via SMS and email
- Proposed Mobile App For Priority Calls so as to get live pictures and information from the scene of incident
- GPS installed in all fire vehicles



Integrated Command and Control Room

### Vehicle and Equipment procured in last 3 years as part of Infrastructure revamp

Sr. No	Item Description	Qty.
1	Light assembly on existing vans	04
2	BA Vans	06
3	Light Portable Pumps	22
4	Forcible entry tools (PRT)	35
5	Portable LED emergency lights	35
6	Quick Response multipurpose vehicles	17
7	Fire engines (New)	06
8	Hydraulic Platform 81 mtrs height + 90 mtrs height	02
9	14 KL water tankers in replacement of old tankers	11
10	Fire engines in replacement of old fire engines	24
11	Personnel carrier Tata Sumo Gold including Fire Compliance Cell	31
12	Mini Fire Tender with piercing facility	03
13	Supply of 51 seater bus	02
14	Control Post Van	03

## AWARENESS PROGRAMME

- Fire volunteers training of 7000 volunteers to assist the Fire officials
- Fire Safety Week Rallies
- Education Programmes for Schools and Colleges
- Lectures in residential and commercial premises
- Live Demonstration of Fire Fighting and Rescue Techniques
- Seminars and Conferences
- Slide show in Cinema Halls



Fire Volunteer Programmes

## ENFORCEMENT

- Online processing of NoC is part of Ease of Doing Business
- Auto DCR for Building Proposal NoC
- NoC and Compliance under 390 and 394 under MMC Act introduced online
- Building Inspection under Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Act carried out

- 2015-2018**
- 5,231 buildings inspected
  - 2,942 deficiencies detected
  - 2,924 complied with
  - 18 prosecutions launched
  - Fire Compliance Cell formed for Inspection of Buildings and Commercial Establishments



Uddhav Thackeray alongwith Vishwanath Mahadeshwar, Hon. Mayor of Mumbai, Ajoy Mehta-IAS, Commissioner, MCGM and other senior dignitaries present at the inauguration function of inducting 17 Quick Response Vehicles into service



Hon. Governor of Maharashtra C. Vidyasagar Rao and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis congratulating Dr. Prabhakar Rahangdale, Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade and Director Maharashtra Fire Services and Chaudhary R.A., Dy. Chief Officer (T) on being awarded President's medal for Meritorious Service



Dr. Ranjit Patil, Minister of State for Home (Urban), Urban Development, Law and Judiciary felicitating President's Medal winners (Posthumous) at the ceremony held at Gateway of India in the presence of Manisha Mhaikar-IAS, Principal Secretary, Urban Development Dept. Maharashtra, I A Kundan-IAS, Addl. Municipal Commissioner, MCGM and Randeep Hooda, Brand Ambassador of Mumbai Fire Brigade



**S K Dheri**  
Convenor  
National Building Code  
PART-IV

The Job of a firefighter possesses potentially danger and threat to life. During a typical year hundreds of fire fighters lost their life in the line of duty, while thousands got injured. By far, the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths is Burns, structural collapse, asphyxia and sudden cardiac events. On the other hand in-

juries during fire-fighting and rescue operations are resulted from a number of factors. Slips, trips and falls consistently account for a large portion of fire ground injuries. In this context, the international conclave on Fire Safe

Mumbai becomes all the more relevant. Various characteristics of the Indian Scenario such as non-compliance of fire safety norms, quality of construction, a tactical focus on aggressive interior fire attack and a preponder-

ance of high-rise building construction, can explain a portion of the higher fatality levels during fire-fighting operations. The job of firefighters is to respond to situations that are often immediately dangerous to life and death.

What protects them from life threatening situation is their training and familiarity with situations and most importantly personal protective equipment worn by a fire fighter. For example, if fire fighter is equipped with proximity suit, injury

and consequences caused by back draft like phenomenon can be minimized. Also wearing breathing apparatus can help in reducing health hazards encountered when a fire fighter is exposed to a fire scene. It is important to note two

things that PPE provides minimum protection and PPE is the first thing to put on & the last thing taken off. There is no uniform practice followed by fire brigades across India for using PPE during fire-fighting and rescue operations. Fire Services is a state subject and in most of the States it is run by municipal corporations.



# “Changing public attitude can go a long way”

“Fire fighting involves a multi-dimensional approach. Hamstrung by adequate manpower and appliances, fire fighting operations today need sufficient allocation in budgets. Although this will help better training and capacity building, the state government can also invest in manpower and enlist the support of locals in this cause,” said D K Shami, Fire Adviser, Ministry of Home Affairs, while speaking at a one-day conclave on Fire Safe Mumbai.

D K Shami said the National Building Code on Fire Safety should serve as a precursor for incorporating its recommendations into their byelaws making them mandatory. These will help prevent the recurrence like the ones that happened in Mumbai, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, and Delhi etc.

Special attention should be paid to the welfare of the firemen. Those who lose lives in the line of duty should be given the status of martyrs on par with central paramilitary forces. There is also a need to sensitize people on the issues of fire safety. Politicians should periodically take stock of

fire safety audit and then follow them up with suitable initiatives that educate people on fire-safe practices. Public attitude needs to be changed. This is not difficult. It just needs the will to implement these ideas, he said.

**“IN ADVANCED COUNTRIES PEOPLE THINK THAT ANY INVESTMENT IN SAFETY IS WORTH ITS WHILE.”**



**D K Shami**  
Fire Adviser, Ministry of Home, Government of India

“In today’s scenario, development cannot be ignored but it should not come at the cost of safety. There should be in a place a high power committee which should look into all aspects of safety that are not covered in the relevant Acts. No doubt, the government is doing its bit by educating people on the dos and don’ts of disasters but

the biggest difference between fire-fighting systems in the West and those in India is that people in the advanced countries do not ask for various Acts and rules for implementation. They are concerned about what can be practically done in the event of a major fire or prevent such an incident from taking place. “People in those countries themselves

feel responsible for their safety and hence they participate in the processes of implementation of fire safety measures and law wholeheartedly,” said D K Shami.

While the proactive approach in the West should be a lesson for policy-makers and citizens alike, we also need to rope in local bodies by putting protocols in place and make everyone follow that by having regular drills. He made out a case for inculcating fire-safe practices right from the school level so that children grow up to understand how to cope with disasters in tough situations. “In advanced countries people believe that any investment in safety is worth its while. We need to develop that mindset because it is for the safety of all of us,” says D K Shami.

He said while the Government established the National Fire Service College in Nagpur for training fire officers to bring uniformity in operational approach, it has also recognized 10 State Fire Service Training centre as a Regional Training Centre for imparting training to sub officers course of NFSC, Nagpur. The College has trained 18,000 professionals in the country so far.

“It was wonderful interaction with all possible stake holders responsible for taking us towards ‘Fire Safe Mumbai’. We at FSAI are trying our best to create awareness about fire and life safety through 8500 passionate members and 23 chapters through various programs. Last year FSAI conducted 160+ programs, almost every second day. We went to schools with support of local fire departments and covered 4,80,000 students last year and will be crossing 10 lakh students throughout India. In Mumbai, this year we have reached 850+ Ganesh Pandals to audit fire and security system. FSAI will make every possible effort to create awareness and will be developing a Building Fire Rating Program which will create direct awareness an important step towards Fire Safe Mumbai,” says Pankaj Dharkar.



**PANKAJ DHARKAR**  
International President, FSAI

“Fire Protection Association of India was created in 1999 – 2000 to take up issues related to Fire Protection Industry in India. Committed to Prime Minister’s Make in India campaign of making world class safety equipment, we periodically conduct Board meetings, general body meetings and take up issues related to the Industry through advisory and consultative process. Here policy and opinion makers come on a common platform to brainstorm on issues relevant to sustained development and its equitable distribution. Proud to have been a part of this conclave, it makes us conscious of our role as a catalyst by working with government on policy issues that enhance efficiency, competitiveness and expanding business opportunities for the industry through a range of specialised services,” says Mukesh Shah.



**MUKESH SHAH**  
Vice President, FPAI

AHAR – Indian Hotel and Restaurant represents above 5000 Hotels and Restaurants of Mumbai. The association represents all its members with various Government agencies like MCGM, GST, FSAI and others for considering their suggestions while framing the policies related to their business. AHAR members take maximum Fire Safety precautions in their premises to avoid any Fire Incidents. Large number of members are in business for over 60 to 70 years and are operating with the required



**SANTOSH SHETTY**  
President, AHAR

NOC from the Fire Department. “Our members scrupulously refrain from any other activity like running hookah parlours and serve only food. Given their age-old infrastructure, they find difficulty in implementing the new fire norms. Our plea is to permit them to operate them on their existing facilities. We are committed to the compliance of the new Fire Safety norms for the new establishments which are being set up now. We thank the Times Group for organising such an informative conclave,” said Santosh Shetty.

## “For us, Fire Safety is an Investment and not cost”

Fire incidents do not come with an address. This necessitates that highest level of precaution is taken to avoid any incident of fire in the first place.



We are in regular contact with Mumbai Fire Brigade to seek their assistance towards following the Fire Safety norms laid down by them. We congratulate

“We strongly believe that the monies spent on Fire Safety as an investment and not a cost. This thinking leads us to have the best available Fire Safety products installed in each of our projects.

Mumbai Fire Brigade for their various initiatives towards creating awareness about Fire Safety among the stake holders and coming out with an apt slogan ‘Help us to Help you’,” says Sonal Gala.

## “We follow the best-in-class fire safety norms”

“In a city that’s growing vertically as rapidly as ours, it is utmost critical for developers to diligently follow all the fire safety norms and to ensure that all stakeholders involved also take adequate fire safety measures. At Oberoi Realty, we follow the best-in-class fire safety norms across all our projects and make sure that our contractors and customers adhere to the same. Keeping Mumbai fire-safe



is a tremendous responsibility and we would like to express our gratitude and provide my support to our Hon. Municipal Commissioner, MCGM and the Chief Fire Officer and his team for their unrelenting work towards the same,” says Rajendra Chandorkar, EVP Architecture & Design.

“In our view it was a very brain-storming conclave bringing in diverse views from the authorities, stake holders, vendors and consultants, all on one platform appreciating each other’s outlook from a different perspective, evolving into a holistic solution for this crucial safety aspect. The most encouraging announcement was by the host, CFO Dr Prabhakar Rahangdale that he’ll be signing the code for our hospitality industry, the following Monday that would guide our industry on the best practices on fire management expected to be followed for our guest and property’s safekeeping. The awards to firemen was understandable but given to us as the Association, supporting the conclave’s standpoint by the Commissioner himself, was really befitting.”



**KAMLESH BAROT**  
Past President, FHRAI

Constantly committed to safe living and working environments for people by the application of safety science and hazard-based safety engineering, it was a matter of pride for UL to be a part of the International Conclave on Fire Safe Mumbai. The ideation sessions on different aspects relating to fire safety, which saw the participation from experts from various sectors, will not only be truly beneficial to all stakeholders, it will also help them to fight concerted in adopting newer and better practices on prevention and mitigation. It was heartening to see so many stakeholders coming on a common platform which is unprecedented. Mumbai was a apt venue for the conclave. The meet will serve as a revolution that will change the face of safety standards in the country.



**V JAGDISH**  
Regional Business and Regulatory Head, UL

## “We follow ‘Built Around You’ philosophy for every project”



“We bring to life unique concepts in urban real estate, which remain faithful to our philosophy of ‘Built Around You’. Each development by us is an affirmation of a safe environment as we maintain the highest grade of fire safety standards across every

project. Renowned brands are a testament to this, as they conducted a robust 10 point security check before shifting their offices at ONE BKC by Radius Developers. We are committed to follow highest Fire Safety standards in each of our project. We also conduct regular Fire Safety drills to educate the occupants about various dos’ and donts’ whenever an incident of fire takes place.”

## Advance technology & compliance, key to Fire Safety

“A majority of skyscrapers are on the rise in Mumbai and it is imperative that these skyscrapers should be fire resistant. Fire safety is a crucial aspect for any building: commercial, residential, educational institute or hospitals. It is the responsibility of every person within the construction industry to ensure that such events never occur. Hence from the initial designs, to the installing



systems and safety measures, the long-term maintenance and upkeep of our buildings, it’s necessary to take precautions and follow guidelines in avoiding such instances. Hence if the developer has installed water sprinkles, fire detection, alarm and communication systems, it would help in minimizing the chances of large scale tragedy,” says Amit Ruparel, Managing Director.

## Safety with APAR ANUSHAKTI wires & cables

APAR ANUSHAKTI Cables and Wires employ Electron Beam Cross Linking technology and provides high protection against electric shock and short circuit. APAR ANUSHAKTI cables and wires offer significantly increased life due to high built-in margin of safety by means of higher temperature withstand capability and higher current carrying capacities. Therefore it is ideal for Wiring / Cable installations where Human Safety is a prime concern, such as metro stations, airport, shopping malls, commercial complexes, hospitals, high-rise buildings, fire alarm, emergency lighting and places having high people interface.



## “Health and Safety measures uppermost on our priority”



“Our primary focus has always been towards enhancing health and safety measures across all our business parks. As part of this constant endeavour we continue to put together robust protection, detection, and redressal fire and safety infrastructure. We deeply believe in proactive-

ly engaging with all our tenant /customers to constantly educate and update them on fire, health and safety through mock drills and customer education / awareness programs. After all the more you sweat in peace the less you bleed in war,” says Vinod Rohira, Managing Director, Commercial Real Estate & REIT.

# A consistent fire safety gradation can raise bar

“A gradation system based on the lines of product-rating and LEED ratings from the Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai can help immensely in elevating fire safety norms by several notches,” said Dominic Romell, Vice President Maharashtra Chamber of Housing Industry (MCHI). He made these observations while speaking on aspects relating to DCR rules and the National Building Code at the one-day fire safety conclave in Mumbai.

Dominic Romell urged the fire department in Maharashtra to initiate a system where fire safety measures could be graded in realty projects and dwellt at length on how the industry tries to rationalise the difference in regulations.

“Often the developers often have to run from pillar to post for certification from IGBC or LEED for energy conservation and environmental sustainability, but even today the end-users have no clue as to what kind of fire-rating a building has,” Dominic Romell pointed out.

Dominic Romell said, Presently, developers get completion and occupation certificates as per norms for their projects that ensure basic amenities and infrastructure are made available to the occupants of a new building. However, if the developer and the architect go the extra mile to introduce more facilities and gadgets for better safety – like larger water storage capacity, availability of UL listed pumps, NFPA 13 approved sprinkler systems, etc. – that project should be deemed as extra-safe. Such a grading system by the fire department or the Government of Maharashtra will encourage to the developers to go that extra mile.

V Suresh, Chairman, National Building Code of India seconded Dominic Romell’s suggestion, during the panel discussion. “These suggestions can be implemented by third party consultants just as LEED or IGBC certification. The provisions of the Maharashtra Fire Safety Act already has a room for third party certification,” he said.



**Dominic Romell, Vice President, Credai-MCHI presented with the conclave memento by Ajoy Mehta-IAS, Commissioner, MCGM and Dr. Prabhakar Rahangdale, Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade and Director Maharashtra Fire Services**

V Suresh observed that even in a city like Mumbai most buyers have little idea about fire safety norms or the facilities available for fire-fighting. “The awareness created by this

new measure by the fire department can go a long way in ensuring improved compliance, a healthy sense of competition among real estate developers with regards to safety, and

awareness among home buyers in understanding where they are investing their hard-earned savings in.”

The difference in the DCR rules and the National Building Code is also a talking point in the industry circles as many architects and project managers try to reconcile with different norms by different agencies. MCHI officials pointed out that the building proposals department and fire department norms are sometimes at variance and the fire department should do training sessions for the building proposals department so that everyone is on the same page.

The other problem with fire safety norms in the National Building Code and the local bodies DCR rules is that the basic regulation structure itself has many imponderables. For one, NBCC states that developers can have more than three basements, while Mumbai municipality does not give developers that leeway and in Delhi the developers have the freedom to build up to six basements. In Mumbai, the parking spaces have to

be much more than any other place in the country simply because of the density of vehicles on the road. The new DCR regulation has also stopped cantilevers and so the open space in a project becomes restricted even as the rehabilitation becomes an issue in SRA projects.

Dominic Romell said the safety standards set by the Mumbai Fire Brigade were laudable. “The CREDAI MCHI and its members are committed to ensuring highest Fire Safety standards in every project for the safety of the people. We also hold regular meetings with the Fire Brigade officials and keep ourselves updated on any new norms that would further enhance safety. Periodic Fire Mock Drills with the help of Fire Brigade are a part of our regimen to educate the residents about Dos’ and Donts’ in case of any incident of fire.”

Dominic Romell thanked the Times Group for giving CREDAI MCHI a platform and an opportunity to associate with an exemplary event like the Fire Safe Mumbai conclave.

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