

Fire safety is a joint responsibility

o make Mumbai safer from fire, the Mumbai Fire Brigade plans to make it mandatory for the housing societies to have fire compliance in place as an integral part of the annual process.



Hemant D. Parab Chief Fire Officer Mumbai Fire Brigade

"Housing societies have annual general meetings. account auditing, etc. we plan to have the submission of Form B on fire compliance an annual feature in collaboration with housing society federation," said Hemant D. Parab, Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade.

This measure is an attempt to ensure residential buildings are better equipped to reduce damage caused by fire incidents.

Recently, the department has initiated conducting mock drills and awareness sessions with the residents to make them aware of the measures required. "This is to inculcate a sense of fire safety from preventive, precautionary measures required to evacua-tion and dousing the same," said Parab.

"It also helps in ensuring why the firefighting system has to be kept operational as it takes a lot less time to extinguish a fire when the firemen arrive at the spot. because "firefighting is everyone's responsibility to drastically cut down on human

and material loss," added Parab. During the pandemic, other other

Education on fire safety is a must in schools



Kishori Pednekar Hon. Mayor of Mumbai

umbai has redevelopment projects and new construction, what are the Wherever redevelopment is happening, the

plots themselves are of smaller sizes. With narrow lanes, cars are parked outside buildings. If there's a fire or someone falls, such hurdles are an obstruction for ambulances and fire department vehicles. In every ward, we have created free parking zones at 1-1/2 kilometre distances from such congested localities. However, people do not utilise them. Whenever there's an emergency call, the by getting vehicles removed. At times, the vehicle gest that car owners should park at the dedicated parking lots so that the lanes aren't congested. When there is a fire or any other incident, the department has a lengthy hose, fire ladders, etc. So, we have solutions in place, but not in their entirety.

Is there a need to emphasise fire safety in a systematic manner right from the school level?

In 2018, there was a fire in a residential building at Parel, a 10-year old school student Zen Sadavarte saved a dozen lives with her presence of mind. This happened due to the fire training she had received at her school on what should be done in case of a fire. During her training, she was taught that if there is smoke, a wet cloth should be put up at the ducts or doors/ windows from where the smoke emanates. Another wet cloth should be put up as a mask to

'MUMBAIKARS SHOULD ALWAYS ENSURE FIRE SAFETY IN THEIR PREMISES'

Under the aegis of MCGM. Mumbai Fire Brigade has been augmenting facilities, introducing innovations and enhancing community participation initiatives

Thy is Mumbai more vulnerable to fire hazards?

Being an island city, the availability of land for horizontal growth in Mumbai is limited and hence development has happened in vertical manner in the form of high-rise buildings. Fire-fighting and rescue in such structures is always a difficult task. Apart from this, the large number of eateries, multiplexes and malls have created additional fire hazards which need to be tackled. Given its landlocked nature, Mumbai has limitations to how much it can expand. Ensuring fire safety is a challenge for every urban area, but it is particularly greater in Mumbai as it is a unique city in terms of the small lanes, parked vehicles blocking access to buildings, the number of commuters that transverse it especially during peak hours hampering swift response and so on. Residents of many buildings do not make the effort to maintain fire safety equipment and there are instances where refuge areas are used for storage, etc.

Being the commercial and financial capital of India, Mumbai witnesses a huge influx of people at an accelerated pace who come here from all walks of life in search of livelihood. The population density is very high and as a result, the structures where they reside and work are also numerous, with limited space separating them. This makes it easier for fires to spread whereas combating them becomes more difficult. So all these factors put together make Mumbai more vulnerable to fire hazards.

Mumbai Fire Brigade is the



Iqbal Singh Chahal, IAS Commissioner Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai

viding services to all these establishments. In terms of the expected response time, MFB has been providing a sufficient number of fire stations, manpower and equipment.

MFB has a distinction of serving this city for a long tenure and it has acquired sufficient experience for the scientific valuation of manpower on the basis of population density, response time and fire risk analysis. The infrastruc-ture for the MFB has evolved and efforts have been made to achieve the proper fire safety coverage for everybody. The requirement for regular

fire stations is difficult to provide in a land-starved city, so the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) and

With COVID-19 what are the problems faced by the MFB while discharging its duties in the 'new normal'?

Though there is a contin-uous danger of COVID, MFB is always at the forefront of assisting Mumbaikars despite the threat perception to their lives. The pandemic has slowed down the day-to-day activities, which has reduced the incidence of fire. On the other hand, other causes have increased, which MFB has to manage. In addition to dousing fires. MFB has also been carrying out sanitizing activities to help combat the pandemic.

What is your vision for MFB? Are there any new developments or nl

that, we are also concentrating on the community participation aspect, by running a Fire Volunteers Program with the help of some NGOs.

What advice would you like to give the citizens of Mumbai in particular where fire safety is concerned?

Mumbai being an island city makes vertical growth essen-tial, but Mumbaikars need to ensure that fire safety awareness and facilities also rise in tandem. While the MFB is constantly evolving to manage the new challenges that arise due to the growth of high rises, it is equally important for the occupants of these buildings to ensure that they too follow basic precautions and avoid creating fire hazards.

Fire safety is everybody's responsibility and the same is mandated in the Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Act, 2006. All citizens should ensure fire safety in their premises at all times. to avoid fire incidences and consequent loss of life and property. From timely changing of wiring, making sure that there are no sparks or loose connections and being especially careful while bursting fire crackers, there are many steps that can be taken by individuals and institutions. MFB is always ready to conduct training sessions at malls, schools, office build-ings on fire safety as well as

mock drills. Mumbai has a vast population belonging to a cross-section of economic strata of society. It is important for citizens from each and every segment to realise the need for giving greater attention to

ments that were covered were peripheral hospitals and Covid-19 centres. Now, each of the personnel right from the security guards to the doctors are aware of their roles in an eventuality.

Apart from these initiatives, the Mumbai Fire Brigade will be recruiting over 700 people to increase the staff strength from around 2.800 to over 3.500.

On upgrading the department with more equipment and apparatus, Parab

Continued on Page 4...

ensure you don't inhale the smoke having carbon monoxide that causes maximum damage to the lungs and results in a person becoming breathless and getting asphyxiated. These initial 10-15 minutes are crucial. If a person manages to act quickly with calmness, lives can get saved as by then the fire personnel are already there at the spot to rescue people stuck inside. Such training should be imparted in schools. All it requires is 10-15 minutes, daily. Posters can also be put up inside the school premises for greater awareness of fire safety. If it is implemented. I am sure many more lives will be saved by students who will be adults tomorrow.

largest in India, what are the systems to co-ordinate such a vast undertaking?

Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) is one of the largest fire services in the country and we are endeavouring to provide the best fire services to each and every corner of the city. Mumbai has high rise buildings, petrochemical refineries. multinational companies, multiplexes, malls, hospitals etc., and MFB is pro-

MFB have recently introduced the innovative idea of mini fire stations. MFB is also capacity building under the Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER); more fire stations, manpower, technology, equipment, public participation, NGO participation, etc. There is also emphasis on the replacement of old fire appliances and procurement of highly sophisticated equipment.

the anvil?

Development of the fire services is a continuous process based on the infrastructure development of the city, population density, and other aspects. To keep pace with the rapid urbanization and growth of this city, greater number of fire stations, additional manpower and vehicles with new technology will also be augmented in the near future. Apart from

'RESPONSE TIME IS

like fire safety. Therefore, we have a number of campaigns that are targeted at different segments so as to get the message across in a proper manner. Mumbaikars need to follow the adage 'prevention is better than cure when it comes to fire hazards and also be vigilant about reporting fires as well as cooperating with MFB to facilitate the process of putting out fires.

'Technologically advanced equipment enhances and facilitates fire safety'

ow has the scope of Mumbai Fire Brigade's duties extended? Though Mumbai Fire Brigade

(MFB) is mandated to discharge the obligatory duty of saving life and property, the duty roster is much beyond this scope. Presently it is rendering services in case of building collapse, rail/ road accidents, air craft accidents, tree collapse, drowning cases, bird and animal rescue, chemical spillages and disasters, oil spillages etc. Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs has also notified all fire services as 'Fire and Emergency Services.' MFB is also entrusted with fire prevention and mitigation via public education and awareness

In what manner does it deal with new-age challenges?

MFB is always a front runner in acquiring state-of-the-art vehicles and equipment for fire-fighting and rescue operations. These are at par with any fire service of developed countries. The growth of this city has posed immense challenges for the MFB with high rises, malls, underground rail lines etc. It is meeting them through technologically advanced equipment with 20 special appliances, including Aerial Ladder Platforms, Hydraulic Platforms, and Turn Table Ladders reaching 90 meters (30 floors). It has recently acquired the HAZMAT vehicle to deal with chemical disasters and



Ashwini Bhide, IAS Addl. Municipal Commissioner Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai

a Fire Robot for situations endangering the lives of firemen, such as recent major fire at City Centre Mall and Dreams Mall, where it was used successfully.

Slums are an integral part of Mumbai, constructed from highly combustible material and closely knit making it impossible for the fire brigade vehicle to access. Similarly, high rises need special skill and equipment to deal with fire emergencies. MFB has recently acquired a multi-articulated boom vehicle of 55 metres height to fight fires in inaccessible areas and high rises. It is procuring high

TO MITIGATE THE **PROBLEM OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION DELAYS. MUMBAI FIRE BRIGADE HAS SET UP 18 MINI FIRE STATIONS** WITH QUICK RESPONSE **VEHICLES, WHICH HAS CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED RESPONSE** TIME. FURTHER IT IS **INTRODUCING FIRE BIKES TO TACKLE** FIRES AT THEIR **INCIPIENT STAGE.**

rise building fire fighting vehicle, combined firefighting-cum-rescue vehicles, too.

Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has issued guidelines of 7.5 minutes response time for urban areas, which is a challenge in Mumbai due to heavy traffic congestion. To mitigate this, MFB has set up 18 Mini Fire Stations with Quick Response Vehicles, which has improved the response time. It is introducing fire bikes to tackle fires at their incipient stage.

How can Mumbaikars

facilitate fire safety in the city? It is everyone's responsibility to ensure fire safety always. As per Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Act 2006, it is the responsibility of owner/ occupier to ensure fire safety in the premises. Fire safety equipment in the building should always be maintained through government approved licenced agencies and certificates to be submitted to the fire brigade twice in a year. Periodic evacuation is very important to save lives. Violation of fire safety measures will attract serious penalties such as disconnection of electricity and water supply or even sealing of the building

How can fire safety checks be done on a regular basis?

MCGM has started a ward-level compliance cell to ensure fire safetv in various buildings, trades, businesses etc. They are regularly checking these places and initiating action in case of non-compliance. Fire Officers have been undertaking regular inspection of various buildings which includes high rise buildings, malls, cinema theatres, hospitals, schools etc, on regular basis to ensure fire safety compliance. Considering the size of this mega city and the mammoth task of ensuring fire safety always, help is being sought from the various NGO's for sensitizing the people about the importance of fire safety. MFB is actively working with various organizations such as Project Mumbai. Fire Safety Association of India etc. for various public education and awareness programs.

A KEY PARAMETER' **L** ooking at the high level of congestion in the city, how does Mumbai Fire Brigade's role assume greater *importance*?

Fire safety is an important parameter of urban planning. The Constitution of India also envisage es the right to live in safe manner, as does the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act 1888, where saving the life and property of citizen is an obligatory duty of MCGM. Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) is not only engaged in extinguishing fires but also has pivotal role in public education in fire safety, mitigation and prevention policies and strict enforce ment of Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Act 2006.

Mumbai has the maximum number and the tallest high rises in our country. Hence the National Building Code 2016, DCPR 2034 defines the requirement of inbuilt fire-fighting system to be provided in the every high rise building at the time of construction. Apart from this, MFB undertakes regular inspections of high rise buildings to ensure fire safety from time to time including conducting mock drills and evacuation drills.

How does MCGM ensure fire safety in the design of new buildings and systems to control fire in emergencies?

Every high rise building in Mumbai



Ramesh Pawar Joint Municipal Commissioner (Improvement) Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai

mandatory compliance from fire brigade as per the provisions of NBC 2016 and DCPR 2034. MFB issues the fire safety re-quirements to be provided in the building (active and passive) at the planning stage. After compliance of building, again inspection is carried out to issue final compliance. This includes fire alarm, detection and fire hydrant system in the building.

city having height of 32 metres and above needs

What are the initiatives being taken by Mumbai Fire Brigade to enhance fire safety awareness?

It is believed that if the fire is tackled at its incipient stage will reduce the loss of life and property to great extent. Working on

this philosophy, MFB has undertaken the program of 'Fire Volunteer' and under this program more than 6000 citizens have been trained in basic fire-fighting. These Fire Volunteers are from the community and responding as a first responder in case of an emergency till fire brigade arrives at the scene of incident. This initiative has yield ed very good results showing down trend of loss of life and property. Further, Mumbai Fire Brigade is jointly working with an NGO called Project Mumbai wherein the citizens are further trained in basic fire-fighting and rescue operations. Participation of citizens is very important to mitigate loss of life and property from fire in this mega city.



FIRE SAFE MUMBAI



Holistic approach to fire 'Mumbai Fire Brigade has and electrical safety always played pivotal role'

ccidental fires are a ma-jor issue facing the gov-ernment and the civic authorities. The rapid urbanisation and spread of high-rise buildings have added further complexity to fire prevention and firefighting. Older and dilapidated buildings, predating development control regulations face their own unique fire safety challenges.

Monday, 25 October 2021

In 2019, there were 11,037 accidental fires recorded across India, causing 10,915 deaths; 58% of which occurred in residential dwellings. In Maharashtra there were 1,436 cases of accidental fires leading to 1,456 deaths in the same year. A tragic blaze in 2016 claimed many lives including that of the Chief Fire Officer and several other senior officers of the Mumbai Fire Brigade.

An analysis of the accidental fires indicates electrical short-circuits as the most common underlying cause, with reasons ranging from the use of substandard materials for wiring and insulation, to overloading existing electrical systems, especially in older buildings. With such a high prevalence of electrical causes of fire incidents, it is imperative to understand issues related to electricity safety and its regulatory regime, along with fire safety protocols.

The legal framework governing fire safety include the Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Act. 2006 and the rules, the National Building Code, Development Control Regulations, and the Central Electricity Authority Guidelines under the Electricity Act.

Under the Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Rules, 2009, the owner and occupiers are expected to get their premises inspected for fire safety every six months by an empanelled Licensed agency, and submit a report to the fire department. However, the compliance of this legal requirement is generally poor, due to ignorance or indifference of the occupiers of the buildings. Moreover. non-inclusion of electrical safety parameters is a glaring lacune in this regulatory mechanism.

A Working Group on Fire Safety set up in July 2019 by the Government of Maharashtra, recommended inclusion of elec



Ajit Kumar Jain IAS (Retd)

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ergy Departments at the policy level, and between Municipal Authorities, Fire Brigades, and the Electrical Inspectorate at the regulatory level.

On the electrical side, all premises are required to be periodically inspected by Electrical Inspectors of the Government. The Department of Energy by its Government Resolution of September 20, 2019, has delegated this function to the private Chartered Electrical Safety Engineers, under the CEA guidelines. The Chartered Electrical Safety Engineers are to be empanelled, trained and certified by the Electrical Inspectorate.

They would facilitate self-certification of electrical safety of the premises by owners and occupiers of buildings with less than 11 kV of electrical load. The properties with higher electrical load will continue to be inspected by the Inspectorate of

Electrical Safety. An effective regulatory mechanism for fire prevention calls for a multi-disciplinary team of licensed fire experts and

a cadre of Electrical Safety Officers in the Fire Services could be considered. Inspection formats covering both fire and electrical safety parameters need to be prescribed by the rules.

Integrating fire and electrical safety in development planning and building regulations, such as standardising the use of critical equipment including miniature circuit-breakers, switches, etc., is another measure that can go a long way towards reducing the risk of fires. Temporary events such as

fairs, exhibitions, or concerts, also raise major fire safety concerns. Several major fire accidents in the past like at a consumer fair in Meerut in 2006 lead to mass casualties. The working group recommended that any permission for such events, involving erection of temporary structures, should only be given after inspections and clearance by both the Fire and Energy Departments.

While the Government agencies have a major role in fire prevention, the onus ultimately rests on the owner and occupiers of the buildings themselves. who have the most major stakes in proper maintenance of fire prevention and electrical systems. Therefore, common awareness programmes on electrical and fire safety, and on the regulatory mandate and the responsibility of the citizens as occupiers of the buildings would be important. The cadre of Local Fire Volunteers could also be leveraged towards sustained awareness and community action for fire prevention.

A multidisciplinary approach to fire safety needs to be institutionalised in the government policy and legal framework, and should reflect in a convergence of the regulatory protocols involved in fire prevention. Sustained awareness campaigns to sensitise the community on the significance of preventative fire inspections and their obligation under the law is the need of the hour.

By Ajit Kumar Jain, IAS (Retd) and Rudreshwar Malkani

The author is a Senior Advisor. ERAF Environmental Research Foundation, and was the Chairman of the Working Group on Fire Šafety set up in 2019 by the Government of Maharashtra. The co-author is a Research Associate at the ERAF Environmental Research Foundation.

hat is the importance of fire safety in government hospitals? Fire safety is of great importance in government hospitals as they are usually overcrowded and have more than 100% occupancy all-round the year. Hospitals have many patients who are trauma victims, have fractures, sick in ICUS, some of them are unconscious, operated and on ventilators.

This makes self-evacuation impossible in case of fire. It is also difficult to evacuate these patients for any fire agency as they often are on advanced life support. Therefore, in-house fire safety measures carry great significance

With more people admitted during the pandemic what new challenges arose from a fire prevention perspective?

During the COVID-19 pan-demic, a large number of patients had to be admitted who needed lot of oxygen. Oxygen requirement of patients was to the tune of 15-80 liters per min-

setups

hospitals,

and

specific

requirements,

resulting in a highly inflammable

environment.

making it prone to

short circuits. They

are crowded with

high risk



Dr. Mohan A. Joshi MS, FCPS, MNAMS, FAIS Professor & Head -Department of General Surgery, Dean, L.T.M. Medical College

ute. While delivering oxygen to the patient some amount would leak in the surrounding atmosphere. This makes the

MUMBAI FIRE BRIGADE HELPED INTALL FIRE SAFETY GADGETS AND EXTINGUISHERS. FIRE SAFETY MEASURES WERE DESIGNED BY THEIR OFFICIALS FOR ALL JUMBO FACILITIES DEVELOPED BY MCGM AND GOVERNMENT.

place highly inflammable. The oxygen delivering machines would deliver the oxygen at high pressures. Various machines around

the patient would make manoeuvring difficult and many of them would constantly work 24x7. Hence optimal maintenance of machinery is important to avoid overheating and short circuits.

Wherever the COVID patients were admitted, that area was supplied with high flow oxvgen connection.

Separation and partition at various places created hurdles in ways and passages of evacuation in case of fire. Therefore, to keep the pas-

sages open and free was a great challenge.

dedicated fire

Mumbai Fire Brigade played a pivotal role in conducting fire audits and helped the hospital engineers to plan the separation of patients between COVID and non-COVID. They helped install fire safety gadgets and extinguishers. Advice regarding modern fire safety meas-

How would you describe

Mumbai Fire Brigade's role?

ures to the engineering staff and the execution of the same especially in avoiding and diffusing fire in the electrical circuits was also done by Mumbai Fire Brigade, which can never be forgotten. Fire safety measures were designed by their

officials for all jumbo facilities developed by MCGM or by government. After execution they were declared fire compliant.

> ty mindset. This is especially needed for the managing committee members of co-operative societies. This can be brought about by making it mandatory for them to undergo CA. Ramesh fire safety training. This will en-

Prabhu Chairman. Maharashtra Societies Welfare Association

residents. I would earnestly request that Mumbai Fire Brigade and Co-operatives Department bring necessary guidelines/ amendments to the Co-operatives Act. Rules and bye-laws to make this happen. Fire safety training to the members ould made compulsory and the auditor of the society should be asked to report the same in the annual audit report," says Ramesh Prabhu.

dire need for incul-

cating the fire safe-

sure that adequate

resources are made

available to safe-

guard the lives and

property of all the



'Fire department plays a vital

role in healthcare institutes'

P.D. Hinduja Hospital and President. AOH, Mumbai

patients, relatives, and staff, making evacuation difficult. During the pandemic, many special COVID Care Centres were set up, and several small hospitals were converted to COVID Care hospitals. While doing this, it was essential to keep ety measures in mind usually v fire sa new centre should be allowed without fire safety protocols in place. There should be a disaster committee in hospitals for fire

power

by a fire safety officer and assisted by firemen should be there. Fire protection equipment should provided and be maintained in good condition: Monthly **Gautam Khanna** mock drills should CEO. be done. In most cases, fire is due to electrical short circuit. It is essential

External audit should be done annually and corrective measures implemented. Large hospital buildings need to have regular liaisons with the local fire brigade, as it plays a vital and responsive role in maintaining fire safety protocols. They are responsive in

'Make fire safety training compulsory for societies'

n Min high-rises rapidly Mumbai are approaching the 100-floor mark. Even then, fire safety in high-rises is a much-neglected topic. "I am glad that MFB has taken this initiative to create awareness

about the critical role of creating a fire safety mindset in the citizens and the managing committees of co-oper-

ative societies. The model bye laws for cooperative housing societies has prescribed to undertake fire safety audit once in 6 months and comply with the fire safety norms. Reg-



trical safety parameters in fire inspections, and underlined the need of coordination between the Urban Development and Encal safety engineers, inspecting both fire and electrical safety systems in the buildings. In metro cities an option of developing

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such Hospitals should situations. always keep adequate space for their entry and involve them in their fire safety protocols.

to keep the electrical

installation properly

guarded

insulated/

precautions to be taken before any incident occurs. I would in fact go further to say that even the Co-operatives Department should take cognizance of the

ular training and trial run of

the fire safety system is a must.

The members should know the

'Fire lifts are a must for high rises'

Mumbai

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n a metro Mumbai, like as urbanisation takes over, the city grows bigger and buildings taller. Electricity has become a basic need and life without it is simply unimaginable. A casual approach towards its negligence use and in safety has become the cause of many fatalities. According to recent reports, 75% of the fires in the city are due to short circuits. These mishaps would

be averted if the recommendations given by the Electrical Inspector are strictly followed and complied with.

In high rise buildings it is mandatory to take a NOC from the Electrical Inspector of Government of Maharashtra as per the CEA regulation 2010. In order to monitor this, the Chief Electrical Inspector and his team have formed a methodology, which has helped in considerably reducing fire hazards in the city. For each building in the city, in order to start the electrical planning the 'Electrical Load Distribution Plan' has to be approved through an authorized Electrical contractor and once approved, the Electrical Inspector after a thorough inspection of the building, gives the NOC provided the specified points are in check.

Fire safety FAQs

number 101. Familiarize yourself

with the exit staircase and the

route leading to the staircase.

their safe exit in case of a

can

anyone

Assign a place outside your build-

ing where people

assemble in case of fire. This way

it would help you

missing and yet to be

(occupants)

identify

rescued.

fire.

ow should you prepare your-

self for a fire? Memorize

the Fire Brigade telephone

Every high-rise building must have a fire lift.operated only by the firemen in case of a fire. It should have a minimum of 1.4 square metres of floor area, 8 passenger capacity automatic power operated car door. These lift car doors and panels fire-resistant for are **Dinesh Khonde** one hour Provision of

smoke vent in shaft fire Chief Electrical switch at accessible floor Inspector, is mandatory Lift shaft should be rendered fireproof and other safeties

should be observed as per the Maharashtra Lift Act & Rules.

During the pandemic, all COVID hospitals and centers were inspected and guidelines given to avoid short circuits and subsequent fires in the city. "Our department was recently awarded for our standardization effort of certifications through Block Chain. We also conduct educational and electrical safety training programs for the masses, at schools, hospitals, big residential colonies, railway and bus stations, as part of Safety Week.' It is the responsibility of each and every resident of the city to be aware and educated about electrical fire safety and compliance, and for the builder to follow the standardization set by the government, in order to have a city that is free and safe from fire hazards," says Dinesh Khonde.

Summon the Fire Brigade even on slightest suspicion of fire or minor fires

Find out how to operate the manual fire alarm. Learn to distinguish between the

fire alarm and other bells in your building.

Identify the location of the In the case of differently-abled/ first-aid firefighting equipment people unable to move, plan for (hose reels, fire extinguishers etc.) in your building. Learn how to operate them.

On arrival of the Fire Brigade, give the details of fire, such as its location. extent, nature etc. and co-operate with them for carrying out effective fire fighting and rescue operations

Images Courtesy: pexels.com

LPG usage tips

lways use BIS-approved appliances from authentic sources. Obtain BIS-approved LPG regulators and 'Suraksha' rubber tubes from authorised distributors only. Check that the cylinder has the company seal and safety cap intact. Get your gas appliances serviced periodically by your distributors' mechanic.

SAFE INSTALLATION

- Empty cylinders must be stored in a cool and well ventilated place with the safety cap put on
- Always keep the cylinder in upright position at ground level in a
- well-ventilated place Always keep the gas stove on a platform above the cylinder level
- Do not keep the cylinder in a cabinet or in a pit below floor level
- Keep the cylinder away from other sources of heat
- Never keep kerosene or other stoves on the floor where an LPG
- cylinder is in use Do not store inflammable material
- like rubber mats, coir, etc., inside the kitchen or above the stove AFE OPERATION
- Strike the match first, then open burner knob
- Always use cotton clothes and cotton apron while cooking, never use synthetic clothes
- Never leave vessels unattended on burners in operation - the contents may overflow, extinguishing the
- flame and causing gas. leakage Do not keep electrical appliances like refrigerators inside the kitchen: power fluctuations in them can act as a source of fire in case of leakage Turn off the regulator knob and then the stove knob before retiring to bed. Always keep the regulator knob in 'off' position when the cylinder is not in use

IN CASE OF LEAK/ IF YOU SMELL GAS Do not panic

- Close regulator and burner knobs • Put the safety cap on the cylinder
- Put off all flames, lamps, incense sticks, etc
- Do not operate electrical switches or appliances
- LPG being heavier than air, tends to settle at ground level on leakage.
- Use all available ventilation to disperse the gas, open all doors and windows for ventilation
- Isolate the main electrical supply from the outside only
- Call your distributor or emergency service cell for help

■he Maharashtra Fire Services (MFS) has appointed 600 plus Fire Licenced Agencies. These Agencies have Licenced been certified to provide, maintain and audit fire safety systems as per the requirements enumerated in the Fire NOC. The detailed list of these agencies are available on

https://mahafireservice.gov. in/license-services.php occupiers are re-The Maharashtra Fire auired to submit Prevention and Life Safety proof of compli-

Measures Act 2009, makes it

mandatory all of the building owners or occupiers to utilise the services of these agencies and get their fire systems inspected, maintained audited. and at least twice a vear. To ensure this, the owners/

ance in FORM B

so, is an offence under Chapter VIII. 36(1)above act, and is liable for penal action that mav Juzer Madarwala the disconnection of power Fire Safety

An ideal citizen-friendly initiative

ises and/ or a fine upto Rs every January and July to Fire 50,000 and imprisonment Brigade as per upto a period of 3 years. the Act.

and water sup-

ply to the prem-

To facilitate the submission of FORM B, the Failure to do MCGM and the Mumbai Fire Brigade have provided Clause for the e-submission of the of the same on the following link: https://portal.mcgm.gov. in/irj/portal/anonymous/ *qlupload* This is a citizen-friendly include

initiative by MFB, MCGM. All the building owners/ occupiers are requested to use this online facility.

How to avoid fire hazards

Consultant

areless disposal of cigarette butts, burning embers and other smoking materials

- PRECAUTIONS Forbid smoking in common and hazardous areas Where smoking is
- permitted, provide sufficient receptacles (say ashtrays) for safe disposal of cigarette ends and matches
- These receptacles should be non-combustible and should not be used for any other purpose. They should be emptied at the end of each working Day
- Apply a 'No Smoking' rule half an hour before the work ceases for the dav

> Premises should be inspected at the close of each day by the concerned staff

Electrical fire risk PRECAUTIONS

- > Do not overload, tap or over heat electrical equipment
- > Electrical installations should be inspected and tested periodically
- > Test the insulation of all circuits > Check the efficiency of earthing
- > Renew all perished or damaged
- flexible wiring > Check that pilot lamps are
- incorporated in all non-luminous appliances and these lamps are in
- good conditions Repair or renew all defective apparatus
- Keep temporary extension wiring to a minimum
- > Switch off from the mains when

- equipment is not in use Use connectors, instead of insulation tape, forjoints > Do not permit loose and hanging
- electrical wires > Prevent physical damage to the
- electrical wiring I installations > Use only l.S.l. certified electrical wiring, appliances and equipment
- > Necessarily use E.L.C.B. (Earth Leakage Circuit Breakers) > Replace old wiring and
- installations periodically > Provide adequate ventilation to the room areas where electric switch boardsl distribution boards are

Leakage of LPG from cylinders PRECAUTIONS

- Guard against leaking gas cylinders
- > Do not keep stove/any heating appliances very close to the gas cvlinder
- > Do not use substandard tubing. Replace it before it develops cracks or broken
- > Be alert about slightest smell of leaked gas before lighting hurner
- > Cylinder should not be kept in horizontal position

Bad housekeeping PRECAUTIONS

> The side open spaces provided around the building to be maintained free from encroachments and obstruction

- > Maintain good housekeeping throughout the premises by keeping materials and articles in a methodical and orderly manner
- > Do not obstruct Escape Routes such as passages, common lobbies and staircases by any construction of storage of any combustible orflammable materials
- While doing renovations, ensure that the wooden shavings are sawdust are removed daily before closing for the day
- Avoid large scale use or storage of timber or wood in the renovation
- > Do not accumulate garbage or waste materials, dispose them daily

hat to do when trapped by a fire? if the fire happens to be on your floor and there is considerable amount of smoke (or the floor is smoke-logged), drop to the floor and try to crawl out. Don't ever try to walk through heavy smoke

- > Activate the manual fire alarm located on the floor if possible
- > If the fire is outside your office room and the exit is blocked by intense heat and smoke, close the door, and seal the crevices around the door with damp clothes. Keep putting water on clothes to maintain dampness
- Go to the balcony or external window and shout for help. In case you have a telephone in your office inform the Fire Brigade and building security personnel
- Above all, keep calm, it will help vou think clearly and act quickly

housed







he Mumbai Fire Brigade has a glorious history of over 240 years behind it. The first fire-fighting in (then Bombay) began in 1777. Local residents were drafted to do this job and were paid a token amount. The Bombay Fire Brigade was initially a function of the police department. It began functioning in 1855. For this purpose, a regular fire service began under control of the Commissioner of Police. As no motorized vehicles existed at the time, fire fighters used to travel in horse-drawn carriages. The Fire Brigade acquired its first motorized fire engine

in 1907. In the same year, the Bombay Salvage Corporation

'A glorious trek and glittering record'

HEMANT PARAB, Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade, presents perspectives on the progress of this truly world-class institution over the centuries, as well as noteworthy incidents

was established, making it rebay Fire Brigade launched an sponsible for fire protection and ambulance service. For this, salvage operations. Fire alarms it began using six donated amwere installed on major streets in 1913. The Fire Brigade was completely motorised in 1920, bidding goodbye to horse-drawn steam engines. The next major development

came in 1920 when the Bom-

ashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Act, 2006.

bulances. After Independence. Salute to Bravery the Fire Brigade was placed in Every year, 14 April is observed local hands and in 1948; M.G. as "National Fire Services Day' Pradhan was appointed Chief to salute the unmatched bravery Fire Officer. The role and jurisshown and sacrifice made by the diction of the Mumbai Fire Bri-66 men of Mumbai Fire Brigade. It was on this day that around 4.40 gade are defined by the Mahar-



Hemant Parab, Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade was felicitated by Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar on receiving President's Gallantry Meda

pm in 1944, an enormous explosion shook Mumbai. Soon, it was found out that the explosions in a vessel, S.S. PortStikins, berthed at Victoria Docks along Mumbai's coast, had caught fire. The ship held nearly 1200 tons of explosives, cotton bales and oil drums.

The scope of the destruction was unprecedented. While the exact number of dead is still not known, the 66 brave firemen will be remembered for ever. The people of Mumbai have erected a Memorial Column at the Fire Brigade Headquarters at Byculla. The Government of India has declared 14 April as "Fire Services Day. Also, "Fire Safety Week" is held from April 14 to 21 every year.

MODERNISATION AND TECHNOLOGY



A well-equipped Hazmat vehicle was imported from Slovenia by the Mumbai Fire Brigade to keep tackle chemical disasters

umbai Fire Brigade has started using modern rear mounted automatic pump systems on fire appliances. New generation Auto Transmission Fire Engine, Turn Table Ladders, Aerial Ladder

Platforms.

The

Platforms, Hydraulic

Vans, Hazmat Vehicle,

Flexible Water Tower.

Mobile Water Trans-

also utilises 3G wire-

less system for Static

& Mobile Commu-

nications and Radio

System. These are

apart from setting up

Command and Con-

trol Systems in the

Control Rooms for ef-

ficient vigilance and

quick response to the

emergency calls.

port Vehicle, etc.

Rescue

department



Chemical Suits from Hazmat Van

ADVANCED EQUIPMENT

he department is using some of the most advanced equipment like thermal imaging camera, victim location camera, radiation and multiple gas detectors, chemical suits with ventilation systems, sealing and plugging equipment, decontamination equipment, various hydraulic, pneumatic, battery operated and mechanical gears, spark proof tools, rope and rescue equipment, most advanced light weight breathing apparatus sets, fire robot for fire-fighting at inaccessible places, high temperature zones, etc. The men are provided with high grade personal protective equipment, self-luminated helmets, hybrid gumboots, etc. MFB has also procured new Task Force Tip or TFT Nozzles for

water efficient fire-fighting. Advanced technology plays a vital role in public safety measures. For effective implementation of these highly sophisticated equipment at grass root level by every fireman, each of them undergo rigorous and thorough training



Newly included 55 meters Flexible Water Towe Vehicle for effective fire-fighting in inaccessible areas

SPORTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS



the

or the first time, Mum-bai Fire Brigade par-ticipated in World Firefighters Games in Chungju, South Korea. MFB's contingent was part of the 13th edition of the event.

A contingent of 13 fire officers and staff brought glory by winning three gold, three silver and one bronze ship. medal.

leader Deepak Team Ghosh (seen above) also the bagged the prestigious title "Toughest Fire Fighter Alive" after successfully completing a tough fire drill that saw over 6,000 fire fighttrulv ers from 64 countries taking part in the event. In all, MFB won eight honours

of

Fireman Pranit Shelke, who works in Control Room and resides at Byculla Fire Station. reached the summit of Mount Friend-Himachal Pradesh and hoisted Mumbai Fire Brigade flag proudly at a height of 17253 feet: a



At the 13th edition of the World Firefighters Games. Mumbai Fire Brigade fireman Rohit Bharat Chavan's participation in the javelin throw event was also lauded. He impressed one and all with his prowess in the sport, which has recently gained immense populari-

AUGMENTATION AND EXPANSION



'umbai Fire Brigade has 35 fire stations: 15 in **V** the city and 20 in the suburban region. Fire stations in South and Central Mumbai are situated in close proximity from each other, required help is quite easily available whereas in suburban region fire stations are located at a distance hence an effective response plan is in place to tackle the challenge. Traffic jams also add on to the problem. Therefore, MFB has come up with the concept of Beat/ Mini Fire Stations to reduce the

response time in case of any emergency. Accordingly at places owned by Municipal Corporation or by Public Private Participation, MFB has started a total of 18 Beat/ Mini Fire Stations. With the increase in strength of fire appliances in the department, they are expanding the manpower as well. During the last recruitment drive. 774 firemen were inducted. Prior to that two more batches of firemen each, of around 300 candidates, were inducted in the department, in last five years.

umbai Fire Brigade has three training _facilities. Newly recruited probationary firemen or officers are provided with six months rigorous

TRAINING AND UPSKILLING



Rescue, Rope Rescue and Urban Search & Rescue are also conducted. MFB has a state-of-the-art

BA Gallery with all necesry amenities, where the men practice in recreated real life situations by donning BA sets that includes heat and smoke artificially created. MFB provides six days, 12 days and 20 days of basic fire fighting training courses to the external agencies such as staff members of the hotels, hospitals, colleges, etc.

Fire Stations Mini Fire Stati Fire Vehicles 1

Fire Engines

35 Water Transportation

ons	18	Vehicles
	-	
otal	262	HAZMAT
	63	High Pre

ansportation	05	111
		De
Vehicle	01	Br
	0.4	Ы
essure pump cum	04	Fi

02

Mobile Diesel Van	02
Delivery Van	01
Breakdown Van	01
Fire Robot	01
Cars	11
Jeeps	71
Personnel Carrier	03
Mini Water Tender	02
Quick response Vehicle	17
Mini Fire Tender	03



training at these facilities. Promotional classes of the existing employees such as three months Leading Fireman Class, 45 days Driver Op erators Training and 30 days Sub Officer Course apart from that Refresher Courses for Officers and Staff are conducted from time-to-time **Refresher Training in Flood**

Jumbo Tankers	28	
Water Tankers	04	
Ambulances	02	
Aerial Ladder platform	10	
Turn Table Ladder	06	
Hydraulic Platform	04	
Foam Tender	06	

Lighting van	
Rescue Van	05
Breathing Apparatus Van	06
Control Post	03
Motor Lorry	02
Bus	02
Education Van	01

C.F.O

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5 A.D.

6 Sr S

7 S. O.

8 A.S.0

9 Sub

MUMBAI FIRE BRIGADE - OVERALL STRENGTH

EQUIPMENTS OF FIRE BRIGADE

Sr. No.	Description	Qty.
1	Light Portable Pumps	32 nos.
2	High Pressure Pumps	05 nos.
3	Breathing Apparatus Sets	495 sets
4	Hydraulic Rescue Tools	50 Sets
5	Search Cameras	05 nos.
6	Thermal Imaging Cameras	20 nos
7	Flood Rescue Equipments	06 Sets
8	Jet Skies	07 nos.
9.	Chain Saw Machines	50
10.	Concrete Breaking Machines	35

MUMBAI FIRE BRIGADE Officers & Staff Total

esignation	Post Occupied	Sr. No.	Designation	Post Occupied
).	1	10	Leading Firemen	218
C.F.O.	9	11	Driver Operator	523
C.O. (T).	1	12	Firemen	1473
Э.	11	13	Fire Women	117
F.O.	25	14	Workshop Staff	54
. 0.	36	15	Workshop Engineering Staff	08
	61	16	Wireless	02
Э.	28	10	Workshop Staff	02
Officer	59		Total	2489

AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

umbai Fire Brigade has three training set-ups at Byculla, Wadala and Borivali Regional Command Centers, where they have been conducting Fire Volunteers Program since 2016. So far more than



6.000 citizens have been imparted the required training, and have received

an ID card, cap, badge and a certificate. These volunteers can help MFB during a crunch situation, may it be at their residence or work place. The officers are also conducting basic fire safety and fire-fighting training at residential complexes, slums, offices, commercial complexes, hospitals, schools, etc. on a weekly basis by way of mock drills, evacuation drills, and lectures on basic fire safety in association with the LP gas supplying agencies.



Prabhat Rahangdale, Deputy Municipal Commissioner and former Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade was felicitated by Mayor Kishori Pednekar for receiving President's Gallantry Medal



As part of the strategy to incorporate technologically advanced equipment, Mumbai Fire Brigade has a special robot that assists in reaching places, which cannot be accessed by its personnel due to the intensity of fire. It has effectively used to combat such high-intensity fires during many situation





A modern water transportation vehicle has been inducted





The Mumbai Fire Brigade reacted swiftly to contain the damage and avert a disaster, when there was a LPG Gas leak at Kasturba Hospital

Check equipment regularly!

s fire fighters we demand more out of our equipment and gear than almost any other profession, because if it fails, it can cost more than just a money. How, then, can we ensure that our equipment doesn't break down when we need it the most? The answer is simple - check your equipment regularly. This seems like no work, but when you consider the realities of the job, it is not such an easy task. Consider keeping track of daily and weekly fire trucks check, inventory checks, PPE gears, SCBA sets, hoses and pump schedules, preventive maintenance and annual test. etc. Now, combine that with all the other responsibilities fire-fighters have and it's easy to see how inspecting your equipment could fall by the wayside.

While missing a check every now and then may not be the end of the world, major issues can arise if they go unchecked too long. With fire fighters, proper maintenance can be the difference between life and death. Here are four tips to keep your equipment up to the task:

1. Use it: Start and run your equipment regularly according to the manufacturer or SOPs laid down by the fire brigade. Check the engine, fluid levels, lights, sirens and tyres of your vehicle regularly. The same also applies to various tools and gears used less often. Even brand new trucks and tools will not work properly if unused too long.

2. Schedule inspections: You may already have some system in place; it may be a log book, checklist or software system. Make sure that the checks are thorough and include everything from daily inspections to those that take place every few years. All checks should comply with manufacturer standards and/ or SOP norms. Services are



Rajendra A. Chaudhary Deputy Chief Officer (Technical), Mumbai Fire Brigade

available to do this professionally and on time as demanded by the fire service.

3. Stay up to date with equipment training: Everyone in your fire department should know how to operate the equipment, which includes fire truck, automatic ladder, rescue tools or circular saw ,etc. But this is not always easy when you are dealing with equipment and crews that may constantly change. One solution is to film more complex inspections while they are done, so that fire-fighters can reference them during their checks. You can take care of this in-house by using your mobile camera without the aid of any external agency.

4. Handle issues early: Good inspections don't mean taking your engine in every year for maintenance. They require checking your apparatus, equipment and inventory consistently so that you can take care of small issues before they become more costly. While this seems tedi-

ous, it can save time and money as well as save lives. As the old adage goes 'An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.' This certainly rings true for fire rescue equipment.



FIRE SAFE MUMBAI



'Fire-fighters are the true heroes' ['Fire compliances are very important'

Leveraging technology, investing in modern equipment, regularly taking steps to induct and train additional manpower and conducting fire drills are all essential

■ire safety and its prevention its are vital issues that impact lives. Known to all of us as one of the four elements of nature, fire has multiple drivers or triggers. There fore, the science of managing it needs to incorporate specifically prescribed approaches for dealing with the cause and effect of each type of fire as well.

pg

Monday, 25 October 2021

strategy The and equipment for dealing with com-bustible waste materials lying in a building compound, which have accidentally caught fire due

to carelessness while playing with firecrackers, will need to be quite different as compared to say an electrical fire caused by an illegal wire connection from a meter box in the vicinity. Fire can spready very quickly, the

slightest delay can cause it to become a massive conflagration that takes much longer to bring under control, in the process raising the risking to life and property to a far greater extent than what would have been the case if appropriate and immediate action has been taken.

Ensuring and enabling a comprehensive, organised and systematic approach to fire-fighting is one of the



D K Shami Fire Advisor, Ministry of Home. Government of India

> public participation aspect comes in. However, the cure has also to be formulated and it must be dynamic and constantly evolving in nature, addressing numerous concerns to remain effective in an ever-changing environment.

increasing

holds the key to fa-

It is rightly said

that prevention is

better than cure.

which is where the

cilitating these.

Leveraging technology, investing in modern equipment, regularly taking steps to induct and train additional manpower, conducting fire drills in various forums from schools to office buildings and housing societies: these are all essential components that need to be available and implemented in a combined, comprehensive manner.

Over time, with rapid urbanisation and growth of tier 2 and tier 3 cities

THESE DAYS FIRE-FIGHTERS NOT ONLY HAVE TO COPE WITH FIRE-RELATED HAZARDS BUT THEY ALSO RISK BEING **INFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS WHILE** MAKING EFFORTS TO SAVE LIVES.

taking place in tandem, the spectrum major imperatives of problems that now need to be dealt that has to be given priority. Allocating with relating to fire safety and fire-fighting, has risen substantially. During greater resources for fire-fighting and agthe past two years, these aspects have gained even more significance in the gressively conducting campaigns for 'new normal' thrust upon us as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. awareness among citizens

These days fire-fighters not only have to cope with fire-related hazards but they also risk being infected by the Coronavirus while making efforts to save lives. On many occasions, there is no time to wear protective gear or limited availability because one is dealing with an unexpected crisis. There are situations where the nature and extent of fire having spread doesn't make donning PPE suits feasible. Operating under such restrictions.

these fire-fighters who put their lives on the line, day after day, are the true heroes. Those who lay down their lives while performing their duty, in order to save others, are martyrs and deserve to be declared as such. The public perception towards fire safety and their conduct towards fire fighters also needs to be more sensitive and considerate given the life-threatening situations they encounter and engage with on daily basis.

The requirements specified are scrutinised in detail while studying building

proposals and plans for each project are examined for ways to fight fires

here was a stage when the basic approval for building proposals used to take a year as there were a hundred processes involved. During the year 2015, we took a conscious decision to resolve this issue and shifted the entire process for approving the building proposals to online mode

The software was there, it had to be enabled and activated. We made efforts towards making the process even easier as we proceeded.

Previously, the No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from each and every department that is related to new building proposals had to be sought from them individually; now all of these have been integrated. The NOCs related to the

fire safety aspect of new buildings are very important and their requirements are scrutinised in detail. Each building's plans are also examined for possible ways to fight active and passive fires.

When the new Development Control and Promotion Regulations (DCPR) were introduced. we had put them online well ahead of time. That way we were able to avoid any confusion



Vinod P Chithore Chief Engineer (Development Plan), Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai

or chaos about what the new norms entailed.

Now there is not a single piece of paper on my desk. The entire process from submission of the building proposals to their approval is completely online and in the public domain.

Any developer who has submitted a building proposal can track the status online from any location in any part of the world and get a clear idea about the same.

THE ENTIRE PROCESS FROM SUBMISSION OF THE BUILDING **PROPOSALS TO THEIR APPROVAL IS COMPLETELY ONLINE AND IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.**

Similarly, the system also enables me to track what each officer from my department is doing from my office.

have been appreciated by While we do conduct physical inspections of the PMO, the Government new building construc-Maharashtra, Govof tion sites to confirm ernment of India, people how much work has abroad also. been completed, online Our department was operational in the lockdown. verification is also possible. This is done by goeven passes were issued online. During the pandeming through the images and videos that have to

ic 1800 permissions were be posted by the develissued for carrying out temoper at each stage as porary repairs, etc. That per the norms specified for was the stage when the people, who had previousthe same. Now, even the RTI applications have reduced ly been reluctant to accept and even in response to change, saw results and rethose, I convey that all the alised the value. I value the support of all details are available online.

be below 10 but due to the

pandemic, it seems that the

World Bank may not be re-

These accomplishments

leasing figures for 2019-20.

I don't think any other destakeholders and my team members in taking the enpartment is as transparent as building proposals. Earlier India's Ease of tire process of approving the building proposals on-Doing Business (EODB) line right from conceptualranking for construction isation to implementation. permits was 183, now it is I have also received good 27. which is a great achieveguidance from all the mument. This year we were nicipal commissioners at

MCGM over the years.

'Fire safety, prevention are given priority'

Given the growth of high rises in Mumbai, do you feel there needs to be a greater emphasis on fire safety?

Vertical growth is preordained in a dense global city like Mumbai. I believe that there should be proactive and continuous measures to improve fire safety without waiting for calamities to strike.

How are leading developers, especially MCHI-CREDAI members ensuring fire safety in the design of new buildings as well as systems to prevent and control fire in case of emergency?

Fire safety and fire prevention are given priority by members on their respective projects. During the construction phase, the focus is on setting un adequate firefighting and prevention infrastructure and educating site staff and labour by conducting fire drills. Fire equipment provided in the buildings for use

during operational phase are stringently as per the recommendation of the fire officers.

With people adopting work from home during the pandemic and using greater appliances simultaneously, what are the additional hazards that need to be managed from a fire prevention

Dominic Romell perspective? Senior Vice President developer's А CRFDAI-MCHI role is limited to the construction phase and till handing



rise structures?

tion. Mindful maintenance of alarm systems, sprinklers etc in residences. offices and other areas by end user is

Looking at the 'new normal' and COVID-19 safety precautions/ restrictions, which are the aspects like occupant awareness, safety drills, that need to be prioritised for fire prevention in all types of high-

vith sa

non-combustible material. Escape routes should be kept free and well lit all the time Random checks should be carried out by trained professionals to ensure compliance.

How would you describe the importance of the role essaved by fire department institutions like the Mumbai Fire Brigade in such situations?

Mumbai Fire Brigade is doing an outstanding job in combating the fires in the city not only in the high rise buildings but also in the unorganised slum areas. Guidelines and regulations are in place and mitigation measures are enforced right at the planning stage. However it is extremely necessary to modernise the equipment used by our firefighters. re-fighting and

Fire safety is a joint responsibility

... Continued from Page 1 added that in the next year, there will be six firefighting-cum-rescue

vehicles that will be inducted. These will have a fire dousing feature and mechanical ladder on a single-vehicle. Soon. 24 bikes will also get commissioned and

will be stationed at each of the wards. It will help in navigating narrow lanes where the fire tenders can't get immediate access. These fire bikes would

have a water pump, a fire compliance to the standards should be tightened. extinguisher. and seats for 1-2 fire personnel so that service taps can start

'Fire Safety Risk Audit is an effective tool'

■he electronics and electricals sector forms an integral part of our lives and fire safety is an essential aspect. Unfortunately, data shows that 'electrical short circuit' has been a major cause of concern and has resulted into fire related incidences. The recent changes in the governing regulatory and technical standards for insulated electrical cable and cords used in homes and offices and electrification are meant to ensure better quality and higher flame withstand parameters of these wires and cables. Despite the fact that regulatory standards are in place, it is felt that the

expecting our ranking to



Vipul Ray MD - ELMEX Controls Pvt Ltd. President. IEEMA

over, post which citizen awareness firefighting equipment, it is also

is the key to effective fire preven-

ty drills and timely maintenance of

rescue equipment provided should be at par with any other western countries. It is necessary improve and update continuously. necessary to use fire resistant and

the firefighting activity much before the fire tenders reach the spot and contain the fire.

all costs. Using two-pin extension cords for three pin plug appliances is another commonly seen hazard. Never use an appliance with a worn or fraved cord which can send heat onto combustible surfaces like floors, curtains, and rugs that can start a fire. Removing the grounding plug from a cord so it can be used in a two-prong electrical outlet can also cause a fire. Ensure that your protection devices are installed in your electrical distribution board. It is advisable to get additional plug points properly installed by a reputed and trained electrician as per the number off gadgets in use. Alwavs insist on switches and wires have the ISI certification. Do not try to save costs by using substandard

Overloading the power consumption with multiple appli-

ces running on a single plug point needs t

Fire Safety Risk Audit is found to be an effective tool for as sessing fire safety standards of an organization or an occupancy. It is aimed to assess the building for compliance with the National Building Code of India, relevant Indian Standards and the legislations enacted by state governments and local bodies, on fire prevention, fire protection and life safety measures. A major focus area for IEEMA is electrical fire safety across the entire spectrum of electrical products being used in the residential, commercial and industrial segments. The recent increase in fire incidents have made this issue even more significant. "We are working in this direction by creating awareness among our industry and consumers as well. Consumer awareness will enable quicker adaption of safe practices. Fire safety and prevention are top priorities and institutions like the Mumbai Fire Brigade play a key role in terms of creating awareness, conducting fire drills, etc. In situations where the fire cannot be controlled by normal fire extinguishers, they have the experience, expertise, and latest equipment to defuse the crisis. We applaud these real-life heroes who risk their lives to save those of others." savs Vipul Rav .

Nirlon Knowledge Park:

wiring or lower capacity plugs without proper earthing.

property. from the initial planning and design, material selection to actual construction of the structure itself. Industry veteran Harresh Mehta, CMD, Rohan Lifescapes, says, "At Rohan Lifescapes we take a

Seminars play a key role Avighna House: The benchmark in compliance & safety e have been or-We also inmuch as with

ganising seminars on the regulatory as pects connected with fire safety in new buildings for our members on a regular basis. The aim is to provide a focused platform where they can gain insights and develop a better understanding

of the norms. Senior representatives from Mumbai Fire Brigade like the Chief Fire Officer. and his team are present at these sessions.

opers to diligently

follow all the fire

safety norms and

to ensure that all

stakeholders in-

volved also take

adequate fire safe-

ty measures. At

Oberoi Realty, we

follow the best-in-

class fire safety

adhere to the same.

norms across all our pro-

jects and make sure that our

contractors and customers

Keeping Mumbai fire-safe

is a tremendous responsi-



Dubal Past President PEATA (I)

"We follow the best-in-

class fire safety norms"

binar for our members.



ic. we have not been able to conduct these seminars. However, we leveraged technology and organised a we-





rohan 🥑 portant aspect being conltescapes. sidered while evaluating a Developers need to give due consideration right commercial project. He points out that "The

real estate industry needs to evolve with the changing priorities of the con

Rohan Lifescapes: Always

ccording to a latest

survey, fire safety is

the second most im-

giving priority to fire safety

sumers and bring the fire safety aspects of the project to the forefront while educating the consumer holistic view and a very at the same time. That comprehensive approach helps the buyer to make to fire safety while dean informed purchase signing any residential or decision.

Safety, Health & Sustainability The Runwal Group, doesn't just build quality homes but of national and international standards and stipquality homes but ulated norms by fire safety department. The Runwal

Group also involves its customers during emergency fire drills. orientation of fire protection systems like extinguishers, fire pump room, public address system, fire alarm,

eters and specifications for sprinklers, emergency asfire safety from the project sembly points at conspicplanning stage itself. This uous locations, fire lifts has always been the highest and SCABA and lowering of priorities at NKP. device for speedy escape. of-art fire detection and

it comes to building safety, fire risk takes the center stage. Prevention is always better than cure and at **KNOWLEDGE PARK** Knowledge Park (NKP)

Safety before all else

X^{hen}

Nirlon

we make it our business to

the highest design param-

NKP has always ensured

Empowered with state-

ensure and practice this.

sponse team with trained and experienced fire officers monitoring the campus round

full-fledged

safety

fire suppressant

systems, NKP is

supported by a

fire

and re-

the clock. NKP conducts regular building evacuation drills and Fire & Rescue demonstrations, with able support from the Mumbai Fire Brigade. At NKP, safety comes before everything else, and no compromise in this respect is ever even contemplated.

missioner, MCGM and the Chief Fire Officer and his team for their unrelenting work towards the same, says Rajendra Chandorkar, EVP Architecture & Design



"For us, Fire Safety is an

GOSHAR ALLIANCE LLP Brigade to seek their as-

sistance towards following the Fire Safety norms laid down by them. We Mumbai Fire Brigade for their various initiatives towards creating awareness about fire safety among the stakeholders and coming in each of our projects. out with an apt slogan We are in regular contact 'Help us to Help you',' with the Mumbai Fire says Pankaj Goshar.

ensures complete safety as well. Safety health and envi ronment protection is a part of their core philosophy. Every aspect of fire safety is well thought through at the RUNWA concept stage itself by a cross functional team including fire safety experts.



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