

GUIDELINES FOR OBSERVANCE OF FIRE SERVICE WEEK CAMPAIGN

Background

On 14th April 1944, a major explosion took place on board ship S.S. Fort Stikline carrying explosives and other combustibles and berthed at Bombay Docks. The explosion and the fire that followed had resulted in massive destruction of ships, port facilities, and residential area in the neighborhood besides claiming lives of over 68 fire service personnel, about 150 port personnel and unaccounted number of civilians. In commemoration of the precious lives lost in the event. April 14 is being observed as the Fire Service Day and the following the Day as the Fire Service Week (FSW).

The FSW is a grim reminder of the destructive potential of fire and need for fire prevention efforts. Every year fires take a heavy toll in terms of human lives and property loss. The estimates are about 25,000 deaths and Rs.2, 700 cores worth property lost annually. It is expected that all sections of society, business and industry would review their fire safety needs, develop suitable strategies for fire prevention, fire control, rescue and rehabilitation and undertake a campaign for fire safety during the FSW.

Campaign Objectives

- Create an awareness of the fire safety in all spheres of human activity
- Focus attention on fire prevention in workplace
- Check operability of fire protection equipment
- Enable employees to control fire effectively

Approach

- Secure active participation of employees in all departments
- Review fire hazards in work procedures
- Involve employees, families in the fire safety movement
- Stress fire prevention off-the-job also

Suggested Activities

1. In the workplace

- Message of fire safety by the Chief Executive to all employees
- Reviewing operational and maintenance procedures for safety
- Operational check on fire protection equipment
- Special emphasis on orderly storage of materials
- Good housekeeping and cleanliness
- Distributing instruction cards on specific fire hazards and precautions in local language
- Inspection by small teams of employees to spot fire hazards in different departments
- Competition/contests for housekeeping, suggestions on fire precautions, fire safety slogans
- Demonstrations on fire fighting and rescue
- Training programmes
- Fire drills and competitions for fire crew members
- Screening fire safety films in work recess
- Arranging visit of local Fire Brigade Officer to plant for familiarizing him with plant operations
- Guest lectures on fire safety topics by specialists in the field
- Displaying banners, posters on fire safety at strategic locations in the plant
- Training to security persons in fire watch and first aid fire fighting

2. At Worker Colonies

- Screening fire safety films (cable TV channels may be used)
- Organizing domestic safety programmes of short duration (about 1 hr.) with stress on LPG safety for employee's family members
- Arranging lectures and film shows on fire safety in schools
- Distribution of hand bills/stickers on specific safety precautions such as 'No Smoking in Bed', 'Not to allow children to play with match sticks', 'Not to overload electrical sockets and wiring', 'Using water as first-aid for burns', etc.

3. In the Neighbourhood

- Displaying banners at strategic locations
- Issuing advertisements in local news papers, on AIR and TV Channels and in cinema theatres
- Writing letters to Editor or For Opinion Columns of news papers on the subject
- Organizing essay/debating/painting competitions on fire safety
- Distribution of hand-bills on fire prevention to members of public.