

37 YEARS OF STATE FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE DAY 14TH APRIL 2021



Ashok Menon, PFSM, CMGM
PGDDM, A.D.F.E. (NFSC), G.I. Fire E (U.K.) & (I), A.M. Fire E(I)
Director
Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services,
Government of Goa.

The Fire Service in the State was constituted as a corollary to development from industrialization & urbanization and established as a Directorate in the year 1984 for strengthening, streamlining and developing the Fire Service in the State. Over the years the Goa Fire & Emergency Services have made progress by leaps and bounds in respect of its organizational structure, effective training, prompt response and amiable public relation. The department has always handled the challenges posed to it with dexterity in the process of upholding its cherished motto **“We Serve to Save”** and living up to its reputation as a dependable Civil Emergency Force of the State.

“Maintenance of Fire Safety Equipment is key to Mitigate fire Hazard” is the theme for this year National Fire Service Day on 14th April and the Fire Prevention Week from 14th to 20th April. We pay homage to the Firemen Martyrs who sacrificed their life in the line of Duty.

Protection of life and property is one of the prime responsibilities of Government. It is seen that Fire has been one of the major reasons for the destruction of life, as much as it has been a vital means of source of sustenance for mankind. The society has long recognized the importance of organized fire-fighting services and preventive measures.

Fire Risk Survey (FRS) 2019 carried out by M/s. PINKERTON in association with FICCI found that Fire due to Electric Short Circuit, chemical based fires, Gas Cylinders, Fires in Building, Public Transport etc. accounted to 7.24 % of the risk, which is a threat and pose risk to business continuity and operations.

Fire safety is the set of practices intended to reduce the destruction caused by fire. Threats to fire safety are commonly referred to as fire hazards. A fire hazard may include a situation that increases the likelihood of a fire or may impede escape in the event a fire occurs. Fire safety is often a component of building safety.

The first line and foremost strategy to tackle fire hazards is prevention of fire occurrence. Because it is not always possible to prevent fire, impact of fire should be managed by either managing fire itself or by managing exposed persons and the property.

Currently, fire safety in buildings is provided through provisions recommended by building codes of practice. While specifications and strategies for ensuring fire safety in buildings vary from one code of practice to other, most of them are based on prescriptive based approach and are derived from similar fire safety principles. In prescriptive based approaches, fire safety in buildings is provided using a combination of Active and Passive fire protection systems. The main goal of the Active and Passive Fire Protection System is to allow ample time for firefighting and rescue operations, and to minimize monetary loss. **The code of Practice relevant to Fire Prevention, Life Safety & Fire Protection is the National Building Code of India-2016 Part-4 'Fire & Life Safety'.**

Most of the fires can be easily prevented using common sense and public awareness in day-to-day life if properly implemented. Also, people can play a key role in reducing response time of firefighting operations by giving right of way to firefighters on roads, which can significantly improve firefighting operations. Occupants of all buildings/ occupancies should have basic knowledge of available fire escape routes, fire safety symbols, location of fire extinguishers, places of assembly in case of fire, and new occupants are familiar with emergency fire response, regular evacuation drills.

Fire safety education and training is not only mandatory is also an extremely important skill to obtain regarding the safety of employees and others who might be in the building. Fires are damaging to property, cause injury or death, and can even eliminate jobs since many buildings destroyed by fire are not rebuilt. The way to prevent these dire outcomes is proper fire safety training.

Fire Safety consciousness pays, both in short term and Long term. Neglecting Fire safety could prove to be very costly. Mitigate Fire Hazard and maintain Fire Safety Equipment's.

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