



# PRESS ARTICLE

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## **ENSURE FIRE SAFETY, CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS NATION BUILDING**

Fire Safety Rules and Regulations play a significant role in fire risk management. Worldwide Fire is recognised as a significant risk across diverse industry sectors. Almost every day some fires are reported by the media across the country. Such fires not only claim numerous lives and cause injuries but also lead to substantial property damage. During the last two decades, there has been vibrant growth in construction activities across India, especially in the domain of high-rise buildings.

Because of its specific nature, fires in Residential buildings, in particular, high-rise building fires, are more complex to handle, and effect rescues from. The salvage operations become more difficult and sometimes even result in deaths and huge property losses. The rapid modernisation of Indian Industry has also made the scenario more complex. Awareness towards fire safety has not been quite forthcoming. Creating safe premises is the key to building a Fire Safe nation. Like it is said, Charity begins at home, fire safety awareness too begins from our own homes.

Residential hazards are frequently caused by fire. Fire accidents can be caused by Gas Leakages or Electrical overloads or short circuits. At times excessive heat generated by defective appliances can be the source of the Fire. The various household items like furniture, curtains, wooden doors, etc. act as a fuel which

lead to a rapid spread of the fire across the house and then to parts of the building at large.

Handling and storage of combustibles, as well as the use or misuse of ignition sources, can create hazardous conditions in residential settings, resulting in property and human life loss. Moreover, the fire can also obliterate a lifetime's worth of memories and possessions.

While it is critical to ensure the safety and security of a home or building establishment to prevent damage and save lives, it is also vital to safeguard valuables and belongings such as jewellery, property, and insurance papers, important documents, passports, certificates etc., as the loss of these assets can set people back by many years.

In recent years, Fire Detection and Suppression technologies have become more advanced. While the fundamentals of fire detection & suppression have largely remained similar, new products lead to more efficient and sustainable solutions, as well as safer ones. We have recently witnessed a rise in the number of 'smart buildings.' In 2016, it was estimated that there were five million connections in smart buildings. By 2025, this is estimated to have increased to over 150 million connections. Many of these smart buildings shall feature cutting-edge fire detection technologies in the future. Sensors are used in these systems to monitor the temperature of a building more precisely. IoT devices present in residential spaces have accelerated the implementation of new-tech fire safety solutions in the light of emerging future technologies and enhancements in sensor capabilities and hi-tech communication systems.

India has a very good set of Fire Standards, and the building codes for both Commercial as well Residential Establishments are very comprehensive. However, we generally see a gap in terms of deployment. That is where the regulators would need to come up with a mechanism to stay on top to drive

implementation of the fire safety standards through stringent audits or stricter penalties. This will secure the safety of both residents.

Our valuables also require a contingency plan for our own future and hence it becomes imperative to invest in appropriate fire safety solutions. In case of a fire emergency, every minute counts and it is generally seen that Fire Appliances must navigate through a lot of traffic and by the time they reach the site of an accident, it typically takes significant amount of time in peak periods.

Investing in technology which will help protect valuables can make a big difference. Valuables and critical documents if stored in Fire Resistant protection equipment can be safely revived after the fire is dozed off, and this can avoid a lot of frustration. To safeguard valuable belongings against fire outbreaks, homeowners can adopt high grade safes that protect their personal belongings for a longer period. There are fire resistant safes that cater to protecting families' valuables and possessions in times of crisis. These safes have inbuilt features to prevent seepage of hot gases, smoke and insulate from the transfer of Heat to the contents inside. One should however ensure that these home safes have a rating and certification label which is a result of rigorous testing to ensure that they are of high quality.

Fire safety and security is constantly evolving with the continuous development of modern Residential spaces. The real estate sector is always researching and innovating with the help of latest technologies to optimally utilize the land parcels and hence the development is now growing taller with higher number of floors.

Looking at these changes in the Real Estate landscape, the Fire Safety and Security industry has evolved and progressed significantly in the past decade from post-accident risk mitigation to accident prevention and detection.

At the same time the developers and occupiers of these spaces should realize the importance of putting in place adequate Fire Safety and Security measures,

equipment as required by the Standards. At the same time, it is also important to ensure due maintenance of these equipment to ensure that these are functional as & when required.

Architects, developers, and builders should opt for modern state-of-the-art solutions and prevention-based strategies which will help mitigate a huge risk. Such measures and equipment should be looked at as an investment or an enabler and not as an expense.

The awareness and penetration of modern fire safety equipment is presently quite low. However, a higher rate of adoption will help fuel overall demand for such safety Equipment & Solutions. This boost in scale will encourage more companies to come forward and invest in Research and development of new Technologies and Systems, which will in turn trigger a movement towards building a Fire Safe nation.

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