

## **Fire is a Good Servant, But a Bad Master - Prevent Fire**

### **IN CASE OF FIRE**

- Raise an alarm and inform the Fire Brigade on Telephone No. 101
- Attack the fire with available equipment, if you can do so without undue risk.

### **IF YOU HEAR THE FIRE ALARM**

- Leave the premises by the nearest available exit.
- Close all doors and windows behind you.
- Report to the person incharge at the assembly point.

### **IN THE INTEREST OF YOUR OWN SAFETY**

- You must know the escape routes, how to operate fire alarm and how to use first aid fire fighting equipments.
- Do not use lift as a means of escape.
- Do not shout or run. This tends to cause panic.
- Call the Fire Brigade
- The services of the Fire Brigade are provided free of cost Dial 101 irrespective of the size of the fire.
- You do not need a coin to communicate on this number, even when you use the P.C.O.

### **HELP THE FIREMEN TO HELP YOU**

- Give way to fire engines to enable them to reach at the incident quickly.
- Allow them to use your telephone to communicate with the control room.
- Don't park your cars/truck close to fire hydrants/underground static water tanks.
- Guide firemen to water sources ie. Tube wells, ponds, static tanks etc. in case of fire.

### **YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT**

- About 600 litres of water flow through a nozzle in a minute.
- A water tender carries 4500 litres of water only.
- If two nozzles are used to throw water on to the fire. It takes only 4 minutes to empty a water tender.
- Hydraulic Platform/turn table ladders can reach to a height of 60m/45m under most favourable operating conditions.
- No objection certificate from Delhi Fire Service is not a guarantee against the out break of fire.
- Availability of fire fighting equipment in the premises do not prevent out break of fire. They help in minimizing the losses due to fire if maintained and operated immediately, effectively and efficiently.
- Non-informing fire service about the fire incident is a cognizable offence.

## Fire Precautions in High Rise Buildings

The threat of fire in High Rise Buildings is constant and if adequate precautionary measures are not taken, the consequences can be grave. Therefore, observe the following basic precautions.

### Do's

- Good House Keeping must be ensured.
- Always use ashtrays while smoking and deposit smoked butts in them after extinguishing.
- All receptacles for waste should be emptied at regular intervals.
- Faulty electrical appliances should be repaired/replaced immediately.
- Switches and fuses should conform to correct rating of circuit.
- Welding /Cutting jobs should be carried out under strict supervision.
- Keep smoke/Fire Check doors closed.
- Keep means of escape clear of obstructions.
- Fire Rescue drills should be carried out at regular intervals.
- Impart elementary fire fighting training to occupants.
- Emergency organization must be setup.

### Don'ts

- Don't dispose off lighted cigarette ends carelessly.
- Don't plug too many electrical appliances in one socket.
- Don't paint fire detector/sprinkler heads

## Fire Precautions in Residential Area

### Do's

- Keep your house neat and clean.
- Keep matches, lighters and crackers away from children. Handle crackers with care,
- Use metal ashtrays while smoking to dispose off matches, used cigarettes and bidis.
- Papers, clothes and flammable liquids should be kept away from heaters/stoves/open choolahs.
- Keep the escape routes/staircases free of any obstructions.
- Use only one electrical appliance in one socket.
- Keep LPG stoves on raised platform Never on the floor.
- Turn off the cylinder valve and burned knob of the gas stove after cooking.
- Keep a bucket of water handy while using fireworks. In case of Burn Injuries Due to Fire, Pour Water Over Burn Till Pain Subsides.

### Don'ts

- Don't muddle with electrical fixtures like plugs, wires switches and sockets.
- Don't leave spray cans on or near heaters or in direct sunlight they could explode.
- Don't throw matches, cigarette ends or pipe ash into waste pipe baskets.
- Don't place oil lamps, agarbattis or candles on the floor or near combustible material.
- Don't wear loose, flowing clothes while cooking specially avoid synthetic clothing.
- Don't keep crackers in you pocket or use fireworks inside the house.
- Never light fireworks under confinement in a metal container.
- Never light flowerpot (anar) while holding it.
- Never reach for any article over a fire.
- Don't refill a burning stove. And never leave open fire unattended.

## **Fire Safety Precautions Against Electricity**

About 60% fires are of electric origin on account of electric short circuit, overheating, overloading, use of nonstandard appliances, illegal tapping of electrical wires, improper electrical wiring, carelessness and ignorance etc. It can lead to serious fire and fatal accidents, if proper instructions are not followed. Such incidents can be minimized to a great extent if adequate fire precautions are observed. Electrical fires spread rapidly especially in buildings and cause loss of lives and property. It is, therefore, necessary to act fast. Raise an alarm for help. Switch off power supply to de-energise the equipment. Use dry sand, CO<sub>2</sub>, dry powder or Halon extinguishers.

### **Do's**

- Use I.S.I. certified appliances.
- Use good quality fuses of correct rating, miniature circuit breakers and earth leakage circuit breakers.
- Use one socket for one appliance.
- Switch off the electric supply of the fire affected areas.
- Fuses and switches should be mounted on metallic cubicles for greater safety against fire.
- Replace broken plugs and switches.
- Keep the electrical wires away from hot and wet surface.
- Switch off appliance after use and remove the plug from the socket.
- Switch off the 'Main' switch when

leaving home for a long duration.**Don'ts**

- Don't use substandard fixtures, appliances.
- Never have temporary or naked joints on wiring.
- Don't lay wires under carpets, mats or doorways. They get crushed, resulting in short circuiting.
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- Don't allow appliances cords to dangle.
- Don't place bare wire ends in a socket.

### **Instruction for Fire Safety in Respect of Temporary Structures/Pandals**

- The height of the ceiling of the pandal should not be less than 3 metres.
- No synthetic materials or synthetic ropes should be used in such structures.
- Margins of at least 3 metres should be kept on all sides-away from any preexisting walls or buildings.
- No structure should be erected underneath any live electrical line.
- Structure should be erected reasonably away from railway lines, electric substations, furnaces or other hazardous places and a minimum distance of 15 metres should be maintained.
- Exits on all sides of the pandal shall be kept sufficiently wide (minimum 1.5 metres). There should be provision for stand by emergency light.
- First-aid fire extinguishers or water buckets must be installed at strategic points inside and outside of the pandal.
  
- No combustible material like wood shavings, straw, flammable and explosive chemicals and similar materials should be permitted to be stored in the vicinity or inside the pandal.

- No fireworks display with open flames of any kind should be permitted close to the temporary structure/pandal. Kitchen must be segregated by providing separation walls of noncombustible material (G.I. Sheets) from the remaining area of the temporary structure.
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### **Fire safety during public/private functions**

Frequent requests are received by Delhi Fire Service for providing fire safety for providing fire safety cover in the public/private functions. The fire engines are provided, subject to availability on payment of prescribed charges which at present is Rs. 3000/ per day or part thereof. Rs. 200/ enhances these charges on 1st April every year as per the present policy.

The public should ensure that the auditorium/stadiums, which they are booking for various functions are having valid No Objection certificate from fire department. Therefore, such functions be held in those premises only, which are having clearance from fire service

## **Fire Protections in Industries**

Owing to the rapid growth of industries, complexities of fire risk have increased enormously. Incidents of such fire risk have increased enormously. Incidents of such fires not only result in huge loss of fire and property but also cause dislocation of work, loss of production, unemployment and so many other kinds of suffering, If adequate fire prevention measures are taken the losses can be minimized.

### **Do's**

- Store flammable liquids gases, solvents, chemicals in stable racks, correctly labeled.
- Keep chemicals in cool and dry place away from heat.
- Where hazardous chemicals are used/stored, ensure adequate ventilation and prohibit smoking.
- Maintain good house keeping. Ensure cigarettes are extinguished before disposal
- Use fuses and circuit breakers of correct capacity.
- Before welding operation, all traces of flammable material must be removed to a safe distance.
- Welding/Hot work should be carried out under proper fire watch.
- Keep all machinery clean and lubricate it to avoid friction and overheating.
- Regular fire drills should be carried out

### **Don'ts**

- Don't smoke in prohibited areas.
- Don't place obstruction in means of escape.
- Don't use damaged cords and avoid temporary connections.
- Don't plug to many electrical appliances in one socket.

## **Basic Fire Precautions in Rural Areas**

Every year thousands of fires occur in villages and farms resulting in heavy losses and depletion of stock of the most valuable and vitally required harvested crops meant for caving the teaming million from starvation. In many cases, even lives are lost. Such incidents can be minimized if the following fine precautions are observed.

### **Do's**

- Extinguish cigarette/bidi ends and match sticks before disposal.
  - Keep combustible materials such as fuel wood, oil paints, spirits etc. in a separate room.
  - The dwellings and huts should be constructed as far as possible with noncombustible materials.
  - Electric installations should be carried out by a qualified electrician.
  - Burning of waste material, grass land, rubbish, stubble etc. should always be done away from the residence under proper supervision.
- Provide spark arrestors on Tractor Exhaust pipe.
  - While building up hay stacks, ensure that
    - (i) A minimum distance of 20m from stack to stack or stack to residences is maintained
    - (ii) Height of stack should not be more than 8m.
    - (iii) Limit one stack to a maximum of 20 tonnes
    - (iv) Keep water drums and few buckets near hay stacks.
    - (v) If possible, build up the stacks near tube wells, ponds, river or other water sources.

**Don'ts**

- Don't be careless about disposal of cigarettes/bidi butts.
- Naked lamps or kitchen fires should never be allowed to burn while retiring to bed.
- Electric wiring should not pass over hay stacks.
- Hay stacks should not be built up near the railway lines or roads.

**Fire Precautions for Children**

Children are our most valued possessions. They are also among the most vulnerable to accidents and fire. The following safety hints shall be borne in mind

Never leave children alone near an open fire, heater or in a kitchen. Elder children may use fire or play with matches. The results can be disastrous. Keep matches and cigarette lighters out of reach of children.

If young children are playing in a room fitted with a Combustion heater or other heating appliance, ensure that the appliance is screened so that children cannot crawl or put their hands on hot elements or hot materials. sockets are covered so that children cannot put wires, metal instruments, their fingers into sockets.