



INCIDENT NAME

Date Of Incident: 23.3.10

Location : Kolkatta Stephen court

Description of the accident:

Short circuit in one of the lift triggered fire in the building, & smoke engulfed the building which houses IT park, BPO offices, music world & restaurant.

No. of persons Injured:

24 died & over 24 seriously injured in the blaze.

Potential Root Cause:

Short circuit in the lift was suspected for the fire incident.

Difficult scenarios:

- 1.It took 90 minutes to bring the hydraulic ladder to the incident spot.
- 2.More than three hundred fire fighters & 40 Fire tenders were involved in the fire fighting operation.
- 3.Several people trapped inside the smoke engulfed building & tried to inhale fresh air from outside.
4. The lift used in the building was never serviced..
- 5.Many peoples clung to narrow ledges, climbed on A.C cages, hung from window sills that were hot.
- 6.some desperately tried to rappel down from cables & wires but most of them fell.
7. Gas cylinders & A.C compressors in the building blew up white hot explosions.
8. The flames spread so rapidly, it was a choice of being charred to death or jumping to a quick end.
- 9.The building was overcrowded without fire exits.
10. most people killed were young recruits at call centre.
11. occupants at top floor had no clue where the stairways of the building were located.
12. All the exits are blocked with fire & smoke and the exit at terrace was locked.

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- 13.the lifts was installed right by the staircase making evacuation more difficult.
- 14.the fire swept from the lift to the stairs via exposed wiring that always hung dangerously in the building.

Lessons Learnt:

Lift service cable & all the electrical fittings need to be thoroughly checked by licensed electrical contractor periodically.

Fire evacuation Mock drill to be conducted once in six months to make the occupants familiar to react during such a crisis point.

Occupants need to be trained in basic fire fighting, evacuation procedures & location of fire exits.

An external emergency staircase needs to install for evacuation during emergency.

All the emergency exit points need to checked & serviced thoroughly at regular intervals.

Installing lifts in adjacent to staircase may be avoided to avoid spreading of fire & smoke to either area.

Occupants need to be trained in safe guarding themselves from smoke filled atmospheres & evacuation.

All the vertical service shafts like lift, plumbing, electrical & A.C ducts need to be compartmented by a fire proof material to prevent spread of fire to any floor above or below

Photograph:

SEED express its deepest condolence and pray the god to look after the families of the died people.



Raised By : Mr.Janakiraman, Chennai.

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