

REPORT

Fire Services Week 2018

April 14, 2018

Delhi State Centre and Safety & Quality Forum of The Institution of Engineers (India), jointly organized a lecture on the occasion of Fire Services Week 2018 on theme: "Fire Loss is National Loss-Let us adopt Fire Safety Measures" on April 14, 2018 at Institution Premises, New Delhi.

Delivering the welcome address Sh Devendra Gill, Chairman, Delhi State Centre informed that on 14th April 1944, a major explosion took place on board ship S.S. Fort Stikline carrying explosives and other combustibles at Bombay Docks. The Explosion & subsequent fire resulted in massive destruction of ships, port facilities, and area in the neighborhood, 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 whole week 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 is 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.

Shri Pradeep Chaturvedi, Council Member, The Institution of Engineers (India) in his address stated that Delhi State Centre and Safety & Quality Forum have been contributing towards awareness generation on various aspects of life Safety and Property protection. He added that although fire is greatest benefactor to human civilization but is also a cruel devastator of life, property & Environment.

Dr G C Misra, Director, Delhi Fire Services Chief Guest of the function started his presentation by giving various statistics in respect of Delhi about number of fire calls, vulnerable areas, average annual deaths etc. Dr Misra stated that Delhi Fire Services attends close to 30, 000 fire calls in a year and on an average 75 people lose their life due to fire accidents. However, large numbers of people are saved during these fire responses. Although, some injuries do happen to the occupants of buildings. As stated by him, fire and life safety system comprises of thoughts, equipments, machine and men which are designed, installed and maintained to minimize the fire losses.

Further sub component of this system are technical regime, legal regime, professional regime and operational regime. In these regimes, issues like concept identification, research, performance modeling and code writing etc comes under technical aspect. Designing of fire system, evaluation, execution, testing and certification fall under professional regime and analyzing failure, their elimination, training, audit and drill fall under operational regime. He explained the SWISS CHEESE MODEL for preventing the fire accidents. Concluding his presentation Dr Misra showed glimpses of various fires which have happened in India and abroad showing the challenges fire and emergency services have to face during the response.

Er P C Mishra, Immdt Past Honorary Secretary, coordinated the event and proposed the vote of thanks.

Nearly 150 members, guests and invitees attended the function.