

MANUAL NO.1
PARTICULARS OF ORGINISATION SET- UP, HISTORY.

MUMBAI CITY.

The Metropolitan city of Mumbai, financial and commercial capital of India is divided into two revenue district viz. Mumbai city District and Mumbai Suburban District. It covers an area of 437.71 sq. kms. It accommodates and supports a population of 12 million. (i.e.12.57% of the state population). The city also manages sizable-floating population coming from adjoining districts and other states.

Being an island city, it is prone to natural and man-made disasters. All types of people from various parts of the country come and settle here because this city provides various avenues to generate income for their livelihood. This city has efficient and well-knit infrastructure of Electricity, Water supply, Roads, Railway, Airports, etc.

Huge inflow of the people coming from all parts of the country has caused strain on existing infrastructure. Nuclear Power Station, large Petrochemical Refineries, National and international Airport & seaport right in the heart of the city has also created very serious fire hazards. Being an island city there is little scope for horizontal development, hence development taking place in vertical direction in the form of high-rise buildings. Through the city boasts maximum number of high-rise buildings, tall high-rise structures above 60 meters pose a greater challenge to city fire department.

To deal with all types of emergencies, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai is maintaining the fire department as required under the section 61 (k) of Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act as an obligatory duty and the corporation provides required manpower and sophisticated tall ladders and other latest and advanced life saving equipments through a budget allocation for maintenance fire department. The Corporation allocates budget of 41 crores under various heads.

HISTORY

Started as a part-time function of Police under the Government, the fire protection subject had passed on to the Municipality on 1st April 1887 as a full-time subject. An Officer on deputation from the London Fire Brigade in the year 1890 –1947 commanded the brigade. Since 1948, the brigade is completely manned and controlled by Indians.

In the ancient days, the equipment comprised hand pumps and steam engines drawn by horses. The colloquial word 'BAMBA' for steam engine is associated ever since the Brigade came into existence. Even today also a fire station is called as "BAMBA KHANA".

The Brigade has 34 Fire Stations, with city Headquarter located at Byculla and suburban Headquarter located at Marol.

The island city of Mumbai is divided into four regions and each region is under the charge of a Deputy Chief Fire Officer. Each Region is further divided into Divisions, which are under charge of Divisional fire Officer. The Divisions are further divided into sub-divisions comprising a certain number of Fire Stations. A Sub-Division is under the charge of an Assistant Divisional Officer, while a Station Officer manages a Fire Station.

The Brigade Control Room is located at Byculla and is under the charge of a Divisional Officer (Mobilization) and is responsible for the minute to minute mobilization of 2700 odd personnel and more than 200 appliances. The officers of the brigade are on 24 hours continuous duty system whereas staff is on 8 hours shift duty system. They are alert and maintain round the clock vigil and respond to any emergency call. Notwithstanding the stress and strains of emergency calls, fire brigade personnel also perform fire and rescue drills and carry out inspections and maintenance of appliances and equipment.

SAGA OF SACRIFICE

The Great Bombay Dock Explosions of 14th April 1944 have become an inalienable part of the history of the Brigade and also that of the City of Bombay. A fire occurred in a ship S.S. "Fort Stikins" berthed at No.1, Victoria Docks. The ship was laden with ammunition, cotton bales, oil drums, bullion etc. A series of severe explosions occurred. The entire Dock area and the neighboring civilian areas to an extent of more than a mile were in flames.

The billowing columns of thick black smoke and red fire balls obscured the sky. Numerous people and animals were lying dead all around. Those who escaped death were running for their life. It was the Brigade, which remained undaunted and faced the calamity and the challenge. Through an unmatched tenacity, perseverance, devotion to duty and gallantry, the officers and men of the Brigade stuck to their place of duty and battled with the conflagrations. The fire-fighting operations continued for over a month. The legendary importance of this tragedy lies in the supreme sacrifice of 66 heroic officers and men, who laid down their lives at the altar of duty and established a glorious heritage for the Brigade. Many more were disabled for life and a large number of fire appliances and equipment were either destroyed or damaged. In recognition, the citizens of Bombay erected a Memorial Column at the Fire Brigade Headquarters and the Government of India declared "14th April as Fire Services Day" to be observed nationwide every year. The casualties amongst the personnel of various services and employments were as follows:

NAME OF THE DEPARTMEN/ISTITUTION	KILLED OR MISSING	INJURED
Armed Personnel	15	30
Bombay Fire Brigade Service	66	83
Bombay Police	14	55
Bombay Port Trust	84	Not Known
Naval Personnel	7	160
Others	4	25
Personnel on ships in the Docks	41	123

Organization Set-up

Municipal Commissioner



Additional Municipal Commissioner



Dy. Municipal Commissioner



Chief Fire Officer



DY.C.F.O. TRAINING (TOTAL 7 DYCFD + 1 DyCO(Tech))



DIVISIONAL FIRE OFFICER (11)



Assistant Divisional Fire Officer (16)



Station Officer (54 +1 (W/L))



Assistant Station Officer (212 +2 (W/L))



Sub Officer (66)



Driver Operator (483)



Leading Firemen(243)



Firemen (1686)