

1st S.F.A.C. Meeting.

Minutes of the Standing Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held at 20-Travancore House Hutments, Canning Road, New Delhi, on 9th, 10th and 11th February, 1956.

Present :-

1. Shri M.G. Pradhan,
Commandant,
National Fire Service College,
Ramgur..... (Chairman)
2. Capt. C.M. Gogerly,
Director, West Bengal Fire Services,
Calcutta.
3. Shri S.F. Lakhani,
Fire Adviser,
Ministry of Defence,
New Delhi.
4. Shri A.B. Advani,
Chief Fire Officer,
Delhi State Fire Service,
Delhi.
5. Capt. M.J.B. Maneckji,
Commandant General Home Guards and Hon. Fire
Adviser,
Bombay.
6. Shri P.N. Mehrotra,
Fire Officer,
Civil Aviation Department,
Allahabad.
7. Shri John Koshi,
District Fire Officer,
Vellore, Madras.
8. Shri S.K. Bose,
Chief Fire Officer,
Allahabad, U.P.
9. Shri N.M. Karanjia,
Fire Superintendent,
Central Railway,
Bombay.
10. Shri C.S. Chandrasekhar,
Deputy Director,
Indian Standards Institution,
Delhi.

I. MORNING SESSION - 10-30 A.M. to 1-30 P.M. on 9th Feb., 1956.

Shri L.G. Mirchandani, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, opened the meeting with a short inaugural address, in which, he broadly gave the members a general outline of the various items on the agenda and the necessity of finalising certain of the matters connected with the Fire Services in the Country. He concluded his speech with a request to the members to extend their best co-operation and advice based on their long years of experience in the Fire Service and wished 'Gods speed' to the deliberations of the meeting.

With the reassurance and encouragement extended through the inaugural speech of the Deputy Secretary Shri L.G. Mirchandani the members commenced the task assigned to them with Shri M.G. Pradhan, Commandant, National Fire Service College, Rampur, in the chair.

The members took up consideration of the agenda, item by item and commenced discussion on the "Fire Drill Manual" prepared by the Commandant, National Fire Service College, which was proposed to be circulated for adoption by all the Fire Services in the Country, as agreed upon at the Fire Chiefs Conference held in August, 1955.

A detailed discussion ensued on each drill and with the exception of certain minor modifications, the drills as prepared by the Commandant, were generally approved by the Committee.

Following are some of the modifications recommended by the Committee.

a) Squad drill :- The members stated that although it was agreed at the Fire Chiefs Conference held in August, 1955, that all movements in the Squad drill should be as per Part I of the Fire Service Drill Book of U.K. Home Office, Fire Service Department (Pages 1 to 16) of the revised edition 1951), they felt that this should be reproduced in our Drill Manual with the permission of the U.K. Home Office. The only change, the members considered to be necessary was that, our 'Drill Manual' should incorporate hindi words of Command along with the english words, as far as possible, as have been now introduced in the Indian Army.

There was some discussion on the correct position of "Stand at Ease" as regards the holding of hands at the rear, and after discussion, it was agreed that, the correct position should be as under :-

Stand-at-Ease : - Keep the legs straight, carry the left foot about one foot length to the left so that the weight of the body rests equally on both feet, at the same time, carry the hands behind the back and place the back of the right hand in the palm of the left hand, grasping it lightly with the fingers and thumb, and allowing the arms to hang easily at their full extent.

b) Physical Drill :- The Committee recommended that since the Chief Fire Officers of each service, have been following different kinds of the physical drills, it would be worth while to call for details of these drills from various Chief Officers, for being considered if necessary, at any future meeting of this Committee.

For the present, it was agreed that the physical drill need not be standardised.

c) Trailer Pump Drill :- According to the decision taken at the last Fire Chiefs Conference held in August, 1955, it was agreed that there should be a "Five men Drill" in case of a trailer fire pump.

The members of the Committee, after going through the "Five men Drill" put up by the Commandant, felt that since the trailer fire pump would necessarily be accompanied by a touring vehicle, it would be proper to follow the "Six men Drill" in this case also, as put up for "Motor Pump Drill" to avoid confusion by having too many different fire drills standardised. This was unanimously agreed to.

d) Motor Pump Drill :- The "Eight men Motor Pump drill" incorporated in the Drill Manual for the benefit of Fire Services in the South was proposed to be deleted, since the members felt, that although such concessions for certain periods can be made, these should not be incorporated in the Manual.

II. AFTERNOON SESSION - 2.30 P.M. to 5.30 P.M.

e) EXTENSION LADDER DRILL :- The members felt that the drill should only be termed as "Four men Ladder Drill" without any mention of the "inclusion" of "exclusion" of motor driver, as stated by the Commandant. This was agreed to.

f) First Aid Appliance Drill :- The Committee recommended that this drill be termed as "First Aid Hose Reel Drill" and should only be confined to "Three men Drill". The necessary changes as suggested by members for the "Three men Drill" were incorporated in the Manual.

g) Crash Tender Drill :- This drill was not specifically entered in the Drill Manual, as it was thought that the "Six men Motor Pump Drill" would be equally applicable for the Crash Tender. Shri P.N. Mehrotra of the Civil Aviation Department however felt that it would be necessary to have a separate drill for the Crash Tender and as the members considered that since this drill would be more needed in his department and as he is well conversant with the peculiar needs at an air crash, they requested him to prepare the details for this drill and pass the same, on to the Commandant.

h) Fire Boat Drills :- The Fire Chiefs Conference held in August, 1955 had approved of adopting the "Fire Boat Drills" as explained in the Fire Service Drill Book (revised edition 1951) published by the U.K. Home Office, Fire Services Department (Pages 90 to 101). The members of the Committee considered it proper to include these drills in details, as at pages 90 to 101 after securing permission to the same of the U.K. Home Office, Fire Service Department.

i) Saluting :- On going through details of rules governing a "Salute" in the Fire Service, the members proposed certain modifications as follows :-

- (i) In Rule (2) it was suggested that "Officers of Sub-Officers and higher ranks" should be considered as "entitled to a Salute" instead of "Officers of Station Officer and higher ranks" as proposed in the draft manual.
- (ii) In Rule (4) the words at the end of the sentence "who will himself also receive the salute" were proposed to be replaced by "and will himself salute".
- (iii) In Rule (5), the sentence "all members of the party will Salute" were proposed to be replaced by "the Senior most will follow the procedure as laid down at Rule (4) above" and the word "receive" wherever it occurs, to be replaced by word "acknowledged".
- (iv) In Rule (7) the word "members" to be replaced by the word "Officers".
- (v) In Rule (8) the word "Officer-in-charge" was proposed to be changed to "Officers-in-Charge" and the words "will himself only" in the second line were proposed to be replaced by "all Officers will".

III. MORNING SESSION - 10.30 A.M. to 1-30 P.M. on 10th Feb. 1956.

Discussion on the "Drill Manual" was continued and the Standard Knots as proposed in the draft manual were approved with the recommendation that the paragraph on "Standard Terms" should be incorporated at the beginning of the Chapter on "Standard Knots" and before the "Overhand Knot or the Thumb Knot".

Pumping Signals and Standard Messages were thereafter approved with the recommendation as desired by Shri P.N. Mehrotra of the Civil Aviation Department that a note be added in the end, to the effect that "Standard Messages in vogue on aerodromes will continue to be followed".

The Committee thereafter considered the "Standard Tests" and recommended that these tests should be fully incorporated in our "Drill Manual" as given on pages 124 to 143 in the U.K. Fire Service Drill Book (revised edition 1951) published by the U.K. Home Office, Fire Service Department with the permission of the authorities.

Shri John Koshi suggested one modification in the "Standard Tests" for extension ladder, in which he proposed that while testing the rounds of each section of the extension ladder, the ladder should be divided. This was accepted by the Committee.

AFTERNOON SESSION - 2-30 P.M. to 5-30 P.M.

After completion of the first item on the agenda, the Committee took up consideration of Item No.2 viz. the proposal to observe a "Fire Week" in India during the autumn of 1956.

The members went through the note prepared by the Ministry and discussed the matter in all its aspects such as preparation of publicity material, finances required for the activities of such a week and the appropriate time in the year at which the observance of such a 'Fire Week' would prove more useful, beneficial and educative to the public at large. After discussion, the Committee adopted the following resolution.

OBSERVATION OF A FIRE WEEK IN INDIA.

"The Committee unanimously approves that a Fire Prevention Week should be observed all over India simultaneously once annually, preferably before the Diwali Week. The Committee recommends that State-wide Fire Prevention Week Committees be formed for organising and implementing the activities of the Week. The Committee, however opines that publicity material in English & Hindi be supplied to the States by the Government of India.

The Committee further recommends that an approach should be made to the Education Ministry and the Information & Broad-Casting Ministry for helping in the preparation of the publicity material and in propagating the same through-out the country.

The Committee went through the tentative programme for the observance of the Fire Prevention Week, as prepared by the Ministry and has generally approved the same and further observed that details in this regard may be left to be worked out by the State Fire Prevention Committees that are recommended to be formed in the Foregoing paragraph".

The members then proceeded to consider Item Nos. 3 (a) (b) & (c) pertaining to standardisation of ranks, badges of ranks and uniform clothing for the fire service personnel.

The Committee considered the various ranks that were previously suggested by the Fire Experts Committee appointed by the Government of India in the year 1950 and those that were suggested by the Chief Fire Officer, Delhi State Fire Service. The Committee also considered the modification to the badges of ranks suggested by the Director of West Bengal Fire Service and the standardisation of uniform clothing proposed by the Commandant, National Fire Service College. After careful consideration, the committee came to the conclusion that in view of the fire services in most of the states not yet being under State Control, it would be difficult to standardize the ranks, badges of ranks and uniform clothing for the Fire Services at present.

The Committee therefore unanimously recommended that in the interest of the country as a whole, the State Governments should again be requested to consider the possibility of bringing the fire services under an appropriate department of the State Government, wherever the fire services are not so. Wherever the fire services at present are State-controlled or brought under State Control, as per the above recommendation, the Committee was of the view, that the fire service organisation should form a separate department as has been recommended previously by the Fire Experts Committee in 1950.

Item No.4 regarding finalisation of proforma for the collection of statistics relating to fire services and fire losses was then taken up for discussion.

The members went through the proforma in details and the suggestions of Sarvashri Advani and Pradhan and proposed that the proforma be split into two forms viz. Form A covering the information of a permanent nature such as pertaining to the area covered by the Fire Service, fire risks covered, water resources, types and construction of buildings and their average heights,

accessibility to fire appliances and such other points, useful for assessing the potential fire risk of the place. The second Form B should include information pertaining to the set up of the Fire Service at the place such as, the number of fire stations, area served by them, number of fire appliances, types of fire fighting engines, ladders and other appurtenances, the total staff with different ranks, reserves, uniforms and accoutrements, First Aid and Ambulance service, if any, attached to the Fire Service, training facilities, any special facilities provided for the staff, annual expenditure, authority maintaining the service etc.

The Committee recommended, a third form to be termed as Form C, which should cover the annual statistical information such as the total number of fires, loss due to fire, estimated value of property saved from fire, lives lost, injured and saved from fire and causes of fires etc. In this connection, the Committee compiled a list of 23 supposed causes of fires which should accompany form C for the guidance of the Fire Service to fill up this form.

The Committee after discussion authorised Shri M.G. Pradhan Commandant, National Fire Service College, to prepare these forms on the lines suggested above.

After the completion of the above item, the Committee took up item Nos. 5(a) & (b) and commenced going through the pamphlet "Save your home from fire" and after completing the first Chapter, the meeting was adjourned, it being 5.30 P.M. The members, finding that there were still three items to be completed agreed to meet at 10-00 A.M. on Saturday 11th Feb., 1956.

MORNING SESSION - 10-00 A.M. to 1-30 P.M. on 11th Feb., 1956.

The members continued their task of going through the pamphlet "save your home from fire" chapter by chapter, and generally approved of the text with slight modifications. The Committee, however, recommended, that since this booklet was intended to be circulated for the use of general public and educational institutions, a fresh booklet on the lines indicated in the pamphlet, should be prepared by entrusting this work to a person, who has experience in writing short stories useful for general public and students.

The Committee also observed that the sketches that had been shown in the draft pamphlet, were not suggestive enough, and required to be improved upon, so as to make them attractive, more receptive and interesting, and above all, conveying the real objectives behind the publication of such a booklet.

As regards the draft booklet "Fire Safety in homes" which was intended for wide circulation all over country, the Committee unanimously recommended that material for publication of the booklet and pictorial scripts should be called for from various sources including the Fire Chiefs in the country, as well as, from a few foreign organisations. The Committee was of the opinion, that each subject of household fire prevention, should be shown in a series of cartoons in the proper sequence of each incident. This, the Committee felt, would be more interesting and more instructive, and in greater measure, more acceptable to the general public and students.

During discussion, the Committee observed that Shri John Koshi of the Madras Fire Service, had prepared a few cartoons with catchy slogans for his service, and therefore the Committee felt that his help in editing this matter should be sought after various suggestions from Fire Chiefs and other similar organisations had been received.

The Committee then proceeded to consider Item No. 6 viz. Booklet on "Rescue Technique".

After going through the "Introduction" to this booklet, which explains the aims, objects and the necessity of publishing such a booklet for wide circulation in the country, the Committee observed that such a booklet comprising of forty-four pages dealing with an important subject like "Rescue" will have to be carefully gone through in details and since the members had not had sufficient time either to study themselves or to go through in details in the limited time left at their disposal, the Committee decided that a booklet on such an important subject should not be rushed through.

The Committee therefore unanimously decided that consideration of the said booklet should be postponed to the next meeting.

The members then started informal discussion as desired by the Ministry, in regard to the minimum instructional equipment required for the National Fire Service College, at Rampur, for starting the first course of training Junior Officers and Instructors and for suggesting ways and means for making up the deficient equipment until supplies ordered by the Ministry actually materialised.

The three statements viz. (A) List of instructional equipment recommended for a Fire-fighting Training Institute by the Fire Experts Committee in 1950, (B) List of instructional equipment for which indents were placed with the Director General of Supplies & Disposals, New Delhi, together with position of supply and (C) List of instructional equipment, offered by States for the National Fire Service College, were studied by the members.

Before suggesting the minimum requirements of instructional equipment and appliances for the College, the members felt that the College should have been located at an important industrial city with air port and harbour facilities, where most of the expensive and large size training equipment could have been had from the local fire services, of the place of training in all types of risks with which, fire services, should be familiar, could have been successfully and readily given. The members, in this connection, referred to the recommendations made previously by the Fire Experts Committee in 1950.

The Chairman explained that since it was not possible to locate suitable accommodation at any industrial city with the type of risks as have been brought out by the members, there was no way left for the Ministry, but to make a start of the Fire College at Rampur, where suitable accommodation was available. The members, however still felt that the choice should have been made from among Calcutta, Bombay and Madras for locating the Fire College.

The members further stated that, if Government approved of by their views as regards location of the College at an industrial city, it would be possible for the College to obtain the use of immediate requirements of major fire-fighting equipments and appliances from the local Fire Services in those cities, so that the College could start functioning and carry on until such time as the College acquired its own appliances and equipment.

The members observed that with the College located at Rampur as at present, where training in specialised risks, would be more theoretical, the trainees sent for advance courses from major industrial cities and ports would not benefit sufficiently from the training at the College and therefore they felt that it was a matter of extreme urgency and importance that the College should be located at the right place, where it could cater to the needs of the trainees coming from all over India. The Chairman thereupon explained to the members that it was decided to take the trainees out on tour to an industrial city during each course, to overcome the deficiencies of Rampur.

The Committee then went through the items of instructional equipment indented through the Director General of Supplies & Disposals and finalised the list of minimum instructional equipment that it considered necessary for the first course of training of Junior Officers and Instructors to be started at the College. The said list is appended herewith.

As regards sparing of further instruction equipment on loan basis for use at the College at Rampur, the members of the Committee felt that the different Fire Services in the country could not spare any more equipment to let it go out of their own areas.

While concluding the meeting, the members of the Committee regretted the absence of the Chief Officer of the Bombay Fire Brigade, who was also proposed to be included in the Standing Fire Advisory Committee, and desired that the benefit of his advice and experience should be made available for future deliberations by including him in the Committee as a member.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, the meeting concluded at 1-30 P.M.

List of minimum instructional equipments considered necessary for the first course at the National Fire Service College, Rampur.

Sl. No.	Name of the article	Quantity	Remarks.
1.	Breathing Apparatus protos 1 hour type.	2	With an extra cylinder each.
2.	Salvus Breathing (Rs. ½ hour type)	2	With an extra cylinder each.
3.	Compressed Air Sets.	2	With an extra cylinder each.
4.	Trailer Pump small 120-180 G.P.M.	1	
5.	Trailer Pump medium 180-250 G.P.M.	1	
6.	Trailer Pump large 350-500 G.P.M.	1	
7.	Tender Van large.	1	
8.	Escape Ladders.	1	
9.	Extension Ladders.	3	
10.	Foam Equipment.	1	
11.	F.B. 2 Foam Branches and Knapsack Tank.	2	
12.	F.B. 10 Foam Branches.	1	
13.	10 Inline and 'W' type Inductor.	1	
14.	Hook Ladders with Pompier belt.	2	
15.	Delivery Hose 2½ in 75' lengths.	3000.	
16.	Delivery Hose 2½ Rubber lines in 50' Lengths.	1000.	
17.	Blower and Exhauster.	1	
18.	Mobile Motor Tank Pump.	1	
19.	Oxyacetylene Cutting Outfit.	1	
20.	Lighting Generator Portable.	1	

(12)

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- 21. Chemical Extinguishers Sode acid 'A' type.
- 22. Chemical Extinguishers Foam type. 6
- 23. Chemical Extinguishers Sode acid 'B' type. 6
- 24. Chemical Extinguishers CTC type. 3
- 25. Chemical Extinguishers CTC $\frac{1}{2}$ Gal. size. 2
- 26. Chemical Extinguishers CO2 $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs size. 3
- 27. Chemical Extinguishers CO2 15 lbs size. 2
- 28. Chemical Extinguishers Dry Powder type. 2
- 29. Foam Trolly 34 gallon. 1
- 30. Ancilliary equipment.
- 31. Sound Projector with screen 1.
- 32. Tape Recorder. 1.
- 33. 16 MM Movie Camera. 1.
- 34. Major CO2 and Foam Crash Tender. 1.
- 35. Major Pump Escape 1.
- 36. Major Turntable Fire Escape. 1.
- 37. High Pressure Manual booster for charging cylinder with oxygen and compressed air. 1.

As per ammended list (attached) supplied by the Commandant, National Fire Service College, Rampur.

LIST OF ANCILLIARY EQUIPMENT

<u>Name of the article.</u>	<u>Quantity.</u>
1. Axes, large.	12 Nos.
2. Axes, Firemen's	24 Nos.
3. Basket, Strainer (Wicker).	10 Nos.
4. Branches, Cooper.	18 Nos.
5. Branches, jet and spray (hand controlled).	6 Nos.
6. Branches, Fog.	6 Nos.
7. Branches, revolving.	6 Nos.
8. Breaching 1 into 2 (Dividing).	6 Nos.
9. Breaching 2 into 1 (Collecting).	6 Nos.
10. Breaching dividing (hand controlled).	6 Nos.
11. Breaching three-way suction-Collecting head to fit suction inlet.	6 Nos.
12. Couplings, double male.	6 Nos.
13. Coupling double female.	6 Nos.
14. Keys hydrants.	6 Nos.
15. Keys hydrant cover.	6 Nos.
16. Keys hydrant lower volve with bar.	6 Nos.
17. Mallocks iron.	12 Nos.
18. Nozzles (various sizes) two each of $\frac{1}{2}$ " $\frac{5}{8}$ " ⁵ , 1" and $\frac{1 1}{4}$ " and six of $\frac{3}{4}$ ".	16 Nos.
19. Nozzles spray.	3 Nos.
20. Powra's Complete.	12 Nos.
21. Saws Carpenter.	6 Nos.
22. Shovels.	12 Nos.