

8. FIRE SERVICES

8.1. Existing Situation

Started as a part-time function of Police under the Government, the fire protection function was first passed on to the Municipality on 1st April, 1887 as an obligatory function. The brigade was commanded by Officers on deputation from the London Fire Brigade between 1890 to 1948. Since 1948, the brigade is completely manned and controlled by Indians.

The city is divided into four regions for operational purposes, each headed by a Deputy Chief Fire. Each Region is further divided into Divisions, which are under charge of Divisional Officer. The Divisions are further divided into Sub-Divisions comprising a certain number of Fire Stations. The Sub-Division is headed by an Assistant Divisional Officer, while a Fire Station is managed by a Station Officer.

The Fire Brigade has 27 Fire Stations, with its Headquarters located at Byculla and suburban Headquarters at Marol, Andheri (E), commanded by a Chief Fire Officer. Seven more fire stations (at Goregoan, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Kurla, Dahisar, Dindoshi and Andheri - Chincholi) are being developed and are at various stages of completion.



Table 31: Fire Stations in Mumbai

Island City Area	Western Suburbs	Eastern Suburbs
Coloba, Worli, Nariman Point, Dadar, Fort, Shivaji Park, Indira Dock, Wadala, Mandavi, Rawli Camp, Memonwada, Dharavi, Gowalia Tank, Bandra, Byculla, Sewree, Deonar (15 Nos)	Andheri, Marol, Bandra Malad, Kandivali, Borivali, Vileparle (7 Nos)	Vikhroli, Mulund, Chembur, Deonar, Gavanpada (5 Nos)

The Brigade Control Room is located at Byculla and under the charge of a Divisional Officer (Mobilization), handles about 25 emergency calls besides ambulance calls every day and is responsible for emergency mobilization of 2,700 odd personnel and more than 200 appliances. The officers of the brigade are on 24 hours continuous duty system where as staff is on 8 hours shift duty system. They are alert and maintain round the clock vigil so that any emergency, big or small is responded to within 30 seconds. Notwithstanding the stresses

and strains of odd time emergency calls, the personnel also perform fire and rescue drills and carry out inspection and maintenance of appliances and equipment. These non-emergency duties extend over whole part of the day time.

The fire services department also maintains a state-of-the art centralized training center at the Wadala Fire Station. It has set up a multi-disciplinary task force for search and rescue team and has over the years introduced sophisticated equipment in its fleet of equipment, including hydraulic ladders and computer-controlled turn table ladders & hydraulic platforms.

Table 32: Rescue Statistics of the Fire Services Department in Mumbai

Sl.	Year	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	No. of incidents of Fire	3,870	3,865	3,841	3,909	3,927
2	No. of incidents of House Collapse	305	154	260	273	241
3	No. of Rescue Calls received	888	1,067	1,134	1,390	1,474
4	No. of Other Calls received	2,972	2,757	2,740	3,064	3,022
5	Total	8,035	7,843	7,975	8,636	8,664
6	Ambulance Calls	991	1,503	863	1,059	523
7	No. of Fire prevention cases	5,010	5,600	4,543	4,169	8,332
8	No. of persons rescued alive in Fire & Other calls	1,435	825	697	801	1,245
9	No. of persons dead in Fire & Other calls	438	402	400	328	344
10	No. of animals rescued alive in Fire & Other calls	503	---	---	---	1,166
11	No. of animals dead in Fire & Other calls	32	21	30	27	28

Figure 6: Map showing location of Fire Stations in Mumbai



The fire stations are equipped with specialized equipment/apparatus including:

- a. Fire fighting & rescue vehicles- 113 Nos.
- b. Ambulances- 15 Nos.
- c. Other vehicles 50 Nos.
- d. Breathing apparatus sets- 370 Nos.
- e. Hydraulic rescue tools- 26 Nos.
- f. Electric chain saw- 37 Nos.
- g. Concrete / steel cutter- 14 Nos.
- h. Chemical protective suits- 100 Nos.
- i. Fire proximity suits- 6 Nos.
- j. Rescue rocket device- 15Nos.
- k. Self/ rope rescue devices- 5 Nos.
- l. Search cam camera- 1 Nos.



MCGM has introduced Fire Safety Education van since April 2000, the first of its kind. The van sponsored by a private sector corporate house is equipped with advanced audio visual teaching aids such as laptop, computers, videocassette, projector, VCR, OHP, Slide Projector Cordless Public Address System, Self electricity supply to operate these equipment and software of various sections of fire safety. The service is offered free of cost to groups of community and industry that seek to be educated.

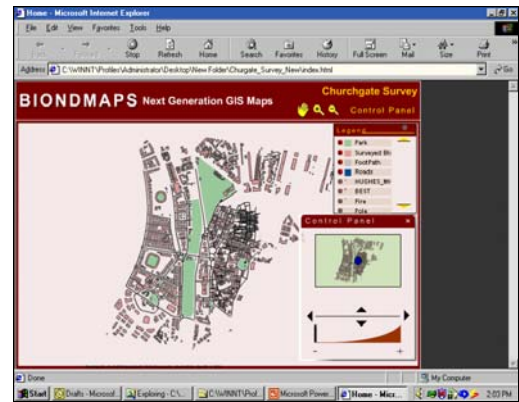


8.2. Key Issues and Strategy Options/Plans

The Fire Services Department has been implementing a series of planned initiatives in terms of computerization of facilities, establishing GIS/GPS based vehicle tracking systems, staff training, emergency medical system, etc. The department has a detailed plan for procurement of:

- a. Fire fighting and rescue vehicles (Rs. 150 crore)
- b. Fire fighting and rescue equipment (Rs. 47 crore)

- c. Communication equipment (Rs. 9.25 crore)
- d. Personnel protection equipment (Rs. 7.8 crore)
- e. Ancillary equipment and gear (Rs. 3.7 crore)
- f. Equipment for training centers (Rs. 7 crore)
- g. Civil works on new facilities (Rs. 53 crore)
- h. Repairs and maintenance of existing fire station and service quarters buildings (Rs. 9 crore)



The total cost of the above items is about Rs. 275 crore and is proposed to be implemented in three years beginning 2006-07.