Industrial Fires and Explosions cost companies and governments billions of Rupees every year apart from the loss of life, which can’t be described in monetary terms. These Fires not only result only in huge loss of Lives and Property but also disrupt production in the Industry.

**COMMON CAUSES OF INDUSTRIAL FIRE INCIDENTS**
- Leakage/Spillage of Flammable/Combustible Material.
- Electrical Short-circuiting/Overloading.
- Overheating of bare surfaces/Heater/Electrical Lamps/Furnaces.
- Welding, Cutting, Soldering and other Hot Work.
- Failure of Machinery and other Equipments.
- Smoking in Prohibited Areas.
- Chemical Reaction/Runway Reaction.
- Frictional Heat/Spark.
- Spontaneous Combustion, Dust Explosion etc.
- Static sparks/Combustion sparks.
- Naked Live Wires.
- Molten Substances.
**Basic Preventive Measures**

- Ensure high Housekeeping Standards.
- Cover Trash-Bins tightly and empty them on regular interval.
- Segregate Flammable/Combustible material from source of ignition.
- Promptly eliminate Oil/Gas Leak and clean spillage of Flammable Material.
- Strictly adhere to **WORK PERMIT SYSTEM** for Welding, Cutting and other Hot Works in areas where Flammable Materials are present.
- Store Incompatible Materials Separately.
- Where Flammable Materials are stored and used, ensure Adequate Ventilation, Prohibit Smoking, and use Flame Proof Electrical Equipments.
- Keep Fuses and Electrical Panels clean and closed.
- Avoid Multi-Socket Connections.
- All Electrical repairs should be carried out by qualified person.
- Don’t use damaged Electrical Cords and avoid temporary connections.
- Lubricate, maintain and align all machines/equipments to prevent generation of Heat.
What did “Factories Act-1948” says:-

Section 38. Precautions in case of fire.

(1) In every factory, all practicable measures shall be taken to prevent outbreak of fire and its spread, both internally and externally, and to provide and maintain-

- (a) safe means of escape for all persons in the event of a fire, and
- (b) the necessary equipment and facilities for extinguishing fire.

(2) Effective measures shall be taken to ensure that in every factory all the workers are familiar with the means of escape in case of fire and have been adequately trained in the routine to be following in such cases.

(3) The State Government may make rules, in respect of any factory or class or description of factories, requiring the measures to be adopted to give effect to the provisions of sub-sections (1) and (2).

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (a) of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), if the Chief Inspector, having regard to the nature of the work carried on in any factory, the construction of such factory, special risk to life or safety, or any other circumstances, is of the opinion that the measures
provided in the factory, whether as prescribed or not, for the purposes of clause (a) of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), are inadequate, he may, by order in writing, require that such additional measures as he may consider reasonable and necessary, be provided in the factory before such date as is specified in the order.

**ALWAYS MAINTAIN FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENTS IN HIGH STANDARD AND CHECK AT REGULAR INTERVAL TO AVOID ANY MISHAP**
PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN DURING AND AFTER THE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

- Do not panic, evacuate calmly and quickly perpendicular to wind direction through the designated escape route.
- Keep a wet handkerchief or piece of cloth/ sari on face during evacuation.
- Keep the sick, elderly, weak, handicapped and other people who are unable to evacuate inside house and close all the doors and windows tightly.
- Do not consume the uncovered food/ water etc open to the air, drink only from bottle.
- Change into fresh clothing after reaching safe place/ shelter, and wash hands properly.
- Inform Fire & Emergency Services, MC, Chandigarh from safe location by dialing 101-Its Toll Free.
- Listen to PA (Public Address) System of the Plant/ Factory.
- Provide correct and accurate information to government official.
- Don’t pay attention to the rumors and don’t spread rumors.
GENERAL PRECAUTIONS DURING NORMAL TIME

✓ Do not smoke, lit fire or spark in the identified Hazardous Area.
✓ Sensitize the community living near the industrial units and they should be more vigilant about the nature of Industrial Units and associated risks.
✓ Keep the contact numbers of nearest Fire Station for emergency use.
✓ Avoid housing near the industries producing or processing the hazardous chemicals, if possible.
✓ Participate in all the capacity building programmes organized by the Fire Department and other Organizations.
✓ Take part in preparing Disaster Management Plan for the community and identify safe shelter along with safe and easy access routes.
✓ Adequate number of personal protective equipments needs to be made available, to deal with emergency situation.
✓ Prepare an emergency kit of items and essentials in the industry, including medicines, documents and valuables etc.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
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