




Aligning Fire Services & Civil Defence to Combat Forest Fire



Forest Fire

- A regular phenomenon
 - Destroys forest wealth, flora and fauna
 - Disturbs the bio-diversity
 - Causes land slides, and other environmental issues
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Forest Fire Management

➤ Forest Department:

- ✓ Responsible for Forest Fire Management
- ✓ Does Preventive actions for Forest Fire Management before the onset of summer season
- ✓ Takes actions to combat fire

➤ Forest Fire Management is a professional work, requires various action for prevention, combat and restoration.



Engagement of State Fire Services to Combat Forest Fire

- Systematic prevention is more important than combat in Forest Fire Management
- Combating Forest Fire is a major challenge involving huge resources in terms of staff and fire equipment
- Engaging State Fire Department to combat Forest Fire may help in many ways:
 - ✓ To clear roads and access points
 - ✓ Use of trained fire fighters and equipment
 - ✓ Handling peripheral hazards of forest fire, involving human safety, etc.



Challenges before the State Fire Departments

- Not mandated as per the Fire Acts and Regulations
- First priority is city/village fire incidents saving human life and property
- May not be able to commit for extending help in combating forest fire, as during summer season, incidents of fire in cities/villages also increase manifold.
- Poor strength
- Inadequate equipment, and appliances
- Requires training for handling forest fire



What State Fire Department can do

- Training of Forest Department officials in combating forest fire
 - Joint fire drill with forest department
 - Make available its staff and equipment depending upon no other important fire calls are pending.
 - It can give technical advice to forest officials on fire equipment, drills, etc.
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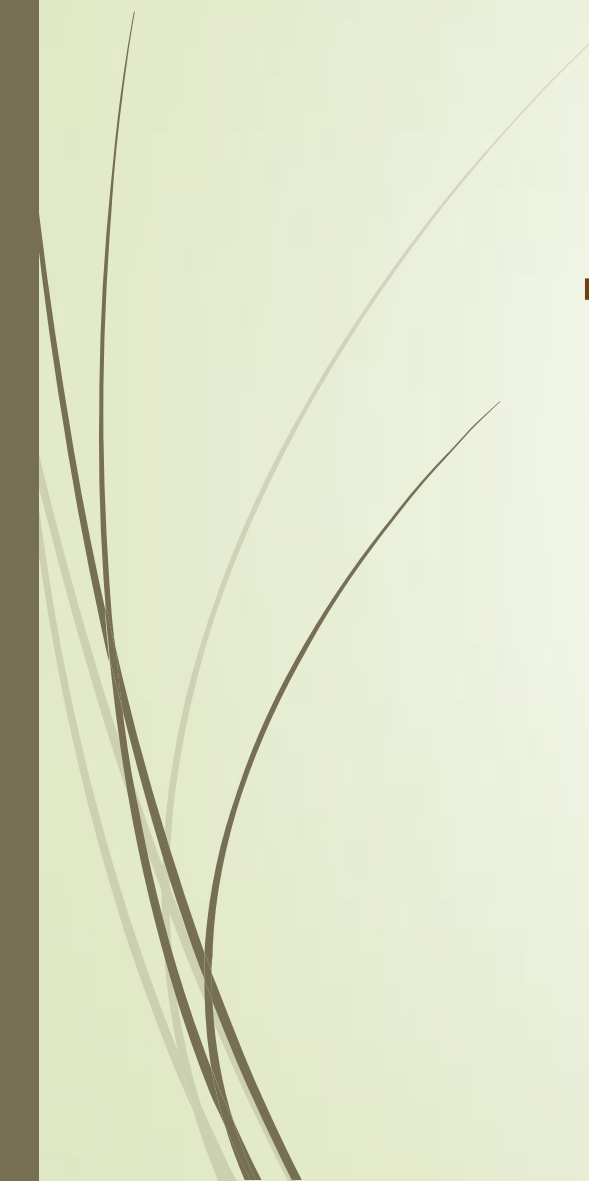

Engagement of Civil Defence to Combat Forest Fires

- It is a volunteer force.
- Engaged in disaster management
- Forest department may use them primarily in:
 - ✓ Awareness campaign on fire safety in jingles
 - ✓ Fire prevention plan in 'off-fire season'
 - ✓ Helping evacuation of human beings and animal, first aid, etc.
- CD volunteers may require specific training for this purpose.
- As combating fire is a high skilled professional work, CD volunteers may not be used for this work.



Suggestions:

- Regular interaction between the Forest Department and Fire Department regularly.
- Capacity building of both departments through training of each other
- Community participation through State Fire Department, and Civil defence
- Forest department may keep Fire department staff in various fire safety committees and audit
- Awareness campaign through Fire departments and civil defence.



THANK YOU!