"NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE DAY"
14th APRIL 2022

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"Learn Fire Safety, Increase Productivity" is the theme for this year's **National Fire Service Day** on **14th April 2022** and the **Fire Prevention Week** from **14th to 20th April 2022**. Last week a poster competition was organized on the afore mentioned theme for school children from all across Goa. It has emphasized on the need for creating fire awareness right from the grass root level. Imparting fire safety education in schools has been a good initiative taken up by the Directorate of Fire & Emergency Services, Goa.

"LEARN FIRE SAFETY, INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY"
"अग्नि सुरक्षा सिखें, उत्पादकता बढ़ाऐं"

Everyone of us has to go through an Agnipariksha at some stage in our lives. Fire is the greatest threat to human life and property. Unlike other calamities, it is impossible to predict when a fire will break out. All that we can do is to take all the precautions needed to prevent the damage to your life and property by fire.

Keeping the workplace safe is imperative for the wellness of employees as well as customers, no matter the size and industry of business. Companies put their

employees, customers and reputation at stake when they take Fire Safety for granted.

Furthermore, failure to send their employees for Fire Safety Training heightens the risk of accidents and fatal injuries. Maximizing fire safety and productivity in the workplace comes hand in hand. When there are proper planning and training for fire safety, it lowers the risk of loss in income, damage to property, and lost time due to incidents and injuries. Thus, increasing productivity and profit.

Effects of Fire Accidents

Work-related injuries, illnesses and deaths are costly to everyone. A safe and healthy work environment pays in more ways than one. The following effects are given below: -

For Workers

Work injuries and illnesses can affect every aspect of life for workers and their families. For workers, injuries or illnesses can cause:

- Loss of life, Pain and suffering, Loss of income and financial well-being, Stress on relationships, Loss of job or career,
- Health-care costs beyond what is covered by insurance.
- Workers may also suffer from low self-esteem, loss of independence, mental health problems, other medical problems, and damaged relationships.

For Employers

A safe and healthy workplace not only protects workers from injury and illness, it can also lower injury/illness costs, reduce absenteeism and turnover, increase productivity and quality and raise employee morale. In other words, safety is good

for business. Plus, protecting workers is the right thing to do. For a small business, one injury can mean financial disaster.

Costs to a business include:

- Production losses,
- Wages for work not performed,
- Increased workers' compensation insurance costs,
- Damage to equipment or machinery,
- Hiring and/or training new employees,
- Decline in product quality and worker morale,
- Decline in worker morale,
- High turnover and lost work time,
- The cost of workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths is much greater than the cost of workers' compensation insurance alone. Insurance is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to these costs.

The Three Pillars: Safety, Quality, and Productivity of Organizations

Too often, businesses will see safety, quality, and productivity as interfering with each other, while they actually operate in concert. Organizations must not think of safety as a nuisance, but rather as an incredibly important component to business success.

Safety

When operations are unsafe, they aren't well-managed. Employees will not be motivated nor mindful, and employee churn will be far greater. Quality and productivity both suffer when employees are under stress, unsatisfied, or unable to complete their mission. But when businesses are safe, it frees up employees to

focus on their quality and their productivity. The safer the organization is, the less frequently the organization will experience large scale disruption. Including Fire Evacuation, fire safety equipment and safety processes.

It's easy to see that safety improves business outcomes. Dangerous operations lead to lost time, injured employees and a loss of morale. Nevertheless, many organizations fear that additional safety processes can take time and money. While true, it's time and money well spent; it's better to spend a small amount for preventative care than a large amount for an emergency.

Quality

Safety is a measure of conscientiousness and proactiveness. High quality work means better results and better products. The higher quality the work, the fewer re-works is needed, and the greater overall productivity is. When quality is high for a business, it can be assumed that standards for the business are generally high,

In terms of quality, the primary issue is often expediency. Companies may feel they have to choose between fast, cheap, or high-quality. When companies are forced to reduce costs (cheap) and produce quickly (fast) they need to sacrifice quality. But sacrificing quality actually ends up driving up time and costs; unsatisfied customers demand reworks, which can often be upwards of three times the original budget.

Productivity

Carelessness is often what begets safety issues. With the appropriate (and productive) safety processes, safety can be improved, and quality can be improved as well. The more productive employees are, the less likely they are to cut corners on things like safety processes. The more productive they are, the more likely they are to put extra attention into the quality of their work.

Finally, productivity must never be seen to be at odds with safety or quality. Organizations may feel that safety and productivity are mutually exclusive, and that it's difficult to maintain a productive office with increased regulation and safety processes. However, the opposite is true; it's impossible for employees to remain productive in a dangerous environment.

How to Maximize Fire Safety and Productivity in the Workplace;

Identify Workplace Hazards: - A Fire Safety analysis can make a huge difference for a company. This allows a business to identify and assess risks and plan appropriately. The following concerns:

Equipment: – Identify and assess the equipment and appliances that workers are using for their daily tasks with the potential dangers it can impose.

Environment: – Evaluate the environmental conditions that may cause fire, accidents, and injuries.

Employee Behaviors: - Examine the daily employee behavior that may cause unfavorable incidents When hazards are identified, it is important that the employees are informed of these dangers. It is advised that accidents and injuries are recorded as well as the costs associated with them.

This statistic will give a better data-driven approach in implementing improvements.

1. **Invest in Fire Safety Equipment: -** A fire-safe workplace needs appropriate equipment and system.

2. **Develop a Company Wide Fire Safety Training Program:** - Installing fire protection equipment is not enough to keep the business safe. Make sure that employees are properly trained to use fire safety equipment. A fire extinguisher

will help put off fire, but if it is handled by untrained hands could place the company in greater danger.

3. **Keep Emergency Exits Clear: -** No one can ever tell when an emergency will happen or when employees need to evacuate the building immediately. It is important that there are emergency exits throughout the workplace. Emergency exits should have signs clearly posted and all employees must be aware of the locations of all exits. These emergency exits should never be blocked at all costs.

Creating a Solid Foundation for Your Organization: - How can businesses create a solid foundation for safety, quality, and productivity? It begins with company culture. Employers need to foster a company culture that values all these things, and it all begins with safety. Safety is essential to a business. A business can always improve upon the quality of its products and the productivity of its employees. But a business that is dangerous and unsafe can establish a negative reputation that will follow it forever.

In addition to company culture, employers should embrace new business processes and business technology. Safety management software can be used to improve upon incident reporting and provide better real-time visibility, making it easier for companies to ensure that their employees are following enhanced safety protocols, and that any safety issues are being properly and expediently addressed. It isn't always easy for an employer to improve their organization from the ground up, especially if it requires sweeping or structural changes. But when it comes to safety, it's critical.

Fire Safety Training Benefits:

Productivity is reduced if employees feel unsafe in their working environment. When employees aren't distracted by potential hazards and know how to handle an emergency such as a fire, their productivity levels increase.

If a fire occurs, it is important the everyone remain calm and in control while exiting the building. Panic can create more problems. Fire safety training will give employees confidence in what to do in an emergency and allows employers to determine which employees would make a good fire marshal.

Employers can be confident that the workforce knows how to spot potential risks. They can trust the staff to keep the business running safely on a day to day basis. This can help ease the employer's stress over safety within the working environment.

There is a financial benefit when employees are trained in fire safety and able to reduce fire risks. It can reduce the repair and servicing costs of machinery and lower the number of employee sick days.

Not only is fire safety training necessary for protecting people, it's also a legal requirement. By training employees and formerly logging their achievements, you show a dedication to protecting your team and minimizing the risk of fire.

After employees have completed fire safety training, they will have the skills to look out for your business, customers and themselves. They will learn how to identify potential hazards, how to evacuate in the event of an emergency and how to use firefighting equipment such as extinguishers.

Deciding to make fire safety training a priority is a great benefit for your business, workforce and customers. The department has taken great initiatives in

emphasizing Fire Safety Awareness through its 15 tailor made courses, Webinars, e-learning (Tech based training). Organizations desirous of obtaining awareness on Fire Safety Training shall visit the department website *http://dfes.goa.gov.in* for more information.

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