

Awareness-cum Training Workshop on
Chemical Emergency - Preparedness & Response
Organized at Nagda, Dist. Ujjain by
Emergency Response Centre, M. P. Pollution Control Board

A Note on the proceedings of the Workshop

The Emergency Response Centre, Bhopal organized the event under an out-reach programme on "Chemical Emergency - Preparedness & Response" at Nagda industrial area in dist. Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh on 31st October 2011 to create awareness among the industry personnel, transporters, first responder group officials such as police, fire brigade, district administration officials from healthcare facilities and also the people living in the vicinity of chemical industries.

The program started with the welcome address from Shri Siddhartha Banerjee, President, M/s. Grasim Industries Ltd. Nagda. This was followed by the floral welcome of the dignitaries on dias. After the floral welcome of the guests The program was inaugurated by Dr. N.P. Shukla, Chairman, M.P. Pollution Control Board, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, by lighting the ceremonial lamp. This was followed by opening Remarks by Dr. Gunwant Joshi, Chief Chemist and Head of Emergency Response Centre, Who explained the need of organizing such a program and highlighted the importance of preparedness in dealing with the chemical emergencies and also gave a brief introduction to the "Out-reach" programme of ERC.

Shri D.M. Nema, Deputy Director, Directorate of Industrial Health & Safety (DIHS), Government of M.P. also shared few words with the participants. He praised the initiative taken by the M.P. Pollution Control Board and stressed the importance of the preparedness in chemical industries. He asked the industry representatives and the various first responder agencies to make use of this opportunity provided by ERC and prepare themselves to deal with any

eventuality or chemical emergency. He thanked the Chairman Dr Shukla, the Regional officer and the ERC team for taking initiative in organizing such a useful activity. He also accorded the joint efforts of M.P. Pollution Control Board and DIHS in addressing and taking up chemical safety related issues with the target groups.

The chief guest of the function, Dr. N.P. Shukla under who's initiative and directions this programme was organized, said that the transparency, responsibility are the cornerstones of board's work culture as reflected in Board's recent initiatives such as implementation of "Narmada XGN" and "Out-reach" program of ERC. He also informed to the participants about the strength that ERC has to provide the technical inputs and guidance to the target groups. He asked the industries to avail full benefits of these initiatives and share freely all their concerns with the Board. He said that the board officials are not just the regulators but also be considered as the partners in safeguarding the Environment and achieving the goal of Industrial development with "Responsible Care" concept.

Dr Shukla said that ERC should take-up the issues of chemical safety and preparedness not only with it's member industries and the first responders but also with the people living in the vicinity. He further stressed that the ERC team should be vigilant and must go to all it's member industries in their respective location settings, have a feel of the area and try to address the issues relevant to maintaining high levels of preparedness to meet chemical emergencies so that better service may be rendered by ERC. He also stressed on the importance of the safety and high level of preparedness in avoiding the chemical accidents culminating in to disasters.

The Vote of Thanks was extended by Shri P.K. Trivedi, Regional Officer, M.P. Pollution Control Board, Ujjain. In his address he appealed the audience to carry the message of safe practices in the chemical process and requested the

industries to adopt the safe practices in their own industrial installations by implementing the lessons learnt at the workshop. During the address Shri Trivedi also gave information about all the legislations dealing with environment and the role of M.P. Pollution Control Board. He also highlighted the recent facility of 'Narmada XGN' extended to the industries for greater transparency and to ease their routine work.

A total of 68 participants from various industries, transport sector, the first responders and the regulators (MPPCB and DIHS) attended the programme and were benefited from the workshop. Among the resource persons, Shri TEC Vidyasagar, former Dy. Chief Inspector of Factories, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh was also the guest speaker.

The technical programme was divided in to two technical sessions, each comprising of two lectures followed by discussions. The technical session also included the mock-drill exercise and table top review of the scenario to give a practical exposure to the participants regarding on-site emergency management.

In the 1st technical session, Shri TEC Vidyasagar deliberated on 'Consequence & Risk analysis in On-site Emergency Management and mock-drill for Chemical Emergency Response'. He gave a very elaborated and informative address to the participants on chemical emergency. He also covered many important issues related with on-site emergency management, hazard identification, risk analysis, consequence analysis and mock-drill exercise. Past accidents took place at H₂S plant, Textile mill, Boiler explosion etc. were also shown to the participants.

This was followed by second deliberation by Shri Siddhartha Banerjee, President, M/s Grasim Industries Limited (SFD), Nagda who presented On-site Emergency Management Plan of M/s Grasim Industries. The efforts made by

the industry for the chemical and environmental safety were detailed to the participants.

The presentation was followed by 'field demonstration of on-site management plan and mock-exercise to give a practical exposure to the trainee participants. The exercise was also aimed to assess the strength and weaknesses of the emergency management plan. The mock-drill was headed by Shri K.C. Panchal, AGM, Safety, M/s Grasim Industries Ltd. and the review of the task was done by Shri TEC Vidyasagar and Shri D.M. Nema along with the participants who were independent observers of various operations of mock-drill.

The scenario was the leakage of hydrogen sulfide gas from one of the storage sphere inside the premises at carbon disulfide plant. The mock-drill started at 1210 hours and completed at 1245 hours. The emergency plan was initiated by blowing emergency siren which triggered various emergency actions by the concerned staff as stipulated in the emergency plan.

The process of emergency mitigation included the use of water canon and foam jet through the mobile fire equipment and foam tenders which helped in containing the effect of leaked chemical. The medical staff and ambulance were also pressed into service to lift and carry the injured personnel due to leakage of gas. The response of management organisation and field equipment preparedness were tested during the drill. An all clear siren was blown at 1245 hours declaring the completion of the Mock drill exercise.

In the 2nd technical session, review and debriefing of mock-drill was conducted which was followed by two technical presentations. During the mock-drill review process facilitated by Shri TEC Vidyasagar and Shri D.M. Nema, the gaps and lapses observed in the emergency management and the actual conduct of the mock-drill were discussed in detail along with the tips for the

background material which was distributed to the participants in the form of C.D. as part of course material.



