

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Safety.387/Fly Leaf/07/2022

Fly Leaf No. 07 / 2022

Attention... ALL CONCERNED.....

PREVENTION OF FIRE ACCIDENTS

In SC division, on 03.07.2022, Train No. 12721 (HYB-NZM) Down Dakshin Express with 22 coaches hauled by Loco No. 37316/WAP7/BZA originated and departed from Hyderabad Station at 23:00 hrs. on 02.07.2022 bound to Hazrat Nizamuddin.

While the train was on run initially the Gateman of LC No.20/E at Km.223/8-10 between GT-BN observed smoke and burning smell at the floor level, (near the rear (SC end) door) of LVPH (last vehicle). He informed the same to Dy.SS/BN on phone who in turn observed the same while train passed through BN and reported fire in the Parcel Van (LVPH) No.ER-218640 (last vehicle) to Section Controller and simultaneously to the Train Manager of that train and also to Station Master in advance i.e., SM/PGDP. The train was stopped at PGDP Station on (Road-1) Down Main Line at 00:32 hrs.

SM/PGDP with the help of other staff tried to extinguish the fire with the fire extinguishers but in vain as the intensity of fire was high and rapidly spreading, he asked for fire brigade. In the meantime, Station staff along with Train Manager of the train detached the Parcel Van (LVPH) No. ER-218640 (last coach) of Train No.12721 (HYB-NZM) Down Dakshin Express from the formation. The front portion of the train was moved ahead on the down mainline for a safe distance leaving behind the Parcel Van (last vehicle) LVPH No.ER-218640.

Train with remaining (21) coaches was despatched at 02:30 hrs. from PGDP Station with 21 coaches leaving behind the last coach i.e., parcel van No. ER-218640. There were no causality / injuries to any of the passengers.

To avoid such untoward incidents the following precautions should be ensured by all commercial, loading/unloading hamalies, Operating, Electrical, Mechanical, Engineering departments.

Fire causes destruction, damage to property and disruption to rail traffic apart from causing deaths and injuries to passengers. Hence, prevent fire hazards by observing the following precautions.

STATION MASTERS, COMMERCIAL STAFF, LOCO-PILOTS & TRAIN MANAGERS:

1. Ensure availability of **sufficient Fire Extinguishers** at Station premises and other station infrastructure pertains to traffic department.
2. Timely detect of **Hot Axle / Brake Binding** en-route.
3. Check for any **smoke / fire** from loaded commodities.

4. Check for any **smoke / smoke from coaches** of passengers / Mail Express trains.
5. Ensure that **four** fire extinguishers of Dry Chemical Powder (DCP) type are available in the loco within the expiry date.
6. Check all the electrical circuits for foul (burning) smell, smoke and sparks.
7. Pay special attention to oil tank wagons, especially for leakages **while taking charge of trains.**
8. **Ensure proper marshalling** of wagons containing inflammables.
9. Pay special attention to **prevent cooking** in the passenger compartments by the passengers.
10. Station staff to **ensure that updated telephone numbers** (landline + mobile) of **fire stations / Fire Brigade Officials** are available, tested at a periodical frequency along with the record of status of the check and also exhibited outside the SM office.
11. Take stern steps to **prevent unauthorised hawkers and vendors** using 'sigris' and stoves on trains.
12. After completion of the loading, **Train Manager must ensure** that all the **lights in the luggage portion** of the SLR are **switched 'off'** to eliminate possibility of short-circuiting.
13. Booking of explosives, dangerous, inflammable articles, empty gas cylinders, dry grass and dry leaves, etc., **should not be booked as luggage** in passenger carrying trains.
14. As a precaution, train carrying inflammable materials like naptha etc., should not be run on the adjacent track during grinding operation.
15. **Dangerous articles**, such as explosives of any variety including fireworks, inflammable materials such as oil, grease, ghee, paint, dry grass and leaves of any variety, etc., **are prohibited** to be carried by any person in the compartment.
16. **Commercial Supervisors to ensure that proper precautions** are taken while stacking combustible material in Goods Shed / Commercial Plots. Conduct surprise checks on clubbing of commodities which may lead to chemical reactions and passenger carrying trains for luggage / parcels in co-ordination with RPF in trains, stations and in Parcel Offices. Also ensure that these are stacked away from residential areas. Ensure that the Commercial plot holder takes all safety precautions as per the Siding Agreement. Also, ensure that the maximum height of combustible material stacked should not be more than 20 feet in height.
17. Lease holders should submit manifest along with declaration before loading the consignments into the leased VPU/SLR.
18. Parcel Supervisors shall ensure that **two-wheelers / motor cycles** when offered for transport by rail, the **petrol tank is emptied totally** and even wiped with a

cotton cloth. **Also ensure that no residual petrol is available either in the petrol tank or the Carburettor.**

19. Do not allot and allow VPUs to be used in lieu of kitchen cars in FTR specials.
20. **Adequate space must be left between roof and the top layer of the packages** loaded in the SLRs including the private parties / lease-holders.
21. Parcel staff shall ensure that hamalis (labour) shall **not smoke** or light a cigarette / beedi while loading / unloading parcels.
22. Drought relief material, such as, paddy grass should be handled properly while loading / unloading in wagons so as not to be swept away by wind towards Diesel loco and cause loco catching fire.
23. Ensure **plastic seals** are provided in place of led seals for Tank Wagons.
24. Catering service moving trolleys on PF should not be allowed with burning gas stoves / sigris.

TRAIN EXAMINERS / ELECTRICAL STAFF :

1. Display **fire related posters / stickers** in all the coaches.
2. Ensure **Emergency Window operation** of all coaches. These should remain in closed position.
3. Ensure availability of **Fire Extinguishers** with valid testing due date in all AC coaches, power-car, Locomotives and SLRs.
4. Ensure functioning of **ACP** in all rakes.
5. Ensure availability of glass ceiling pocket containing **small hammer** in all AC coaches.
6. Ensure proper **locking of all coaching and SLRs** of Empty coaching rakes / coaches during stabling as well as, movement from platform to Yard / Station.
7. Ensure full watering of all passenger coaches.
8. Ensure that **ACP apparatus is functioning** properly.
9. Ensure that **emergency windows are properly working.**
10. Ensure all **electrical connections are intact** and there are **no loose fittings** in the coaches.
11. Do not allow battery boxes in **'open'** condition and also MS sheet covering is provided wherever required.
12. Ensure **correct rated fuses / MCBs are provided** in electrical circuits.
13. Ensure earthing leakage check is done for AC coaches before allowing to run.

PANTRY CAR STAFF :

1. **Chimneys** of pantry cars should be **regularly cleaned** to prevent choking with soot and over-heating.
2. Ensure the placement of gas cylinders in the gas room only.
3. Electrical junction boxes should be covered.
4. **Staff should be trained to use the Fire Extinguishers.**
5. Specified number of fire extinguishers should be available in good condition.
6. Ensure **no garbage is dumped** in the vestibule path-way.
7. Ensure **the gas pipe is insulated** with Asbestos material.
8. Ensure instruction for **locking of pantry equipment during night** hours.
9. Ensure the use of **fire retardant blades in chimney blower** of pantry cars.
10. Ensure that **Exhaust fans are working**

SECURITY STAFF :

1. Ensure that the maximum height of combustible material stacked should not be more than **20 feet per stack.**
2. Ensure the combustible material is stacked away from the residential areas.
3. Ensure that **smoking is not done** in banned / restricted locations.
4. Ensure that the labour and the hawkers are **not cooking food using open oven / chulha / sigris.**
5. Inflammable items e.g., **Crackers, Kerosene oil, Petrol, Gas cylinders** etc., should not be permitted in passenger coaches and SLRs.
6. In passenger trains carrying of **stove, sigri, film** etc., should not be permitted.
7. **Do not allow gas cylinders to be loaded** in the passenger compartment.

PRINCIPAL CHIEF SAFETY OFFICER

SAFETY ORGANISATION

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY