

OWARDS A SAFER TOMORROW

(P.Balachandran, Sr.DSO/MDU)

Safety is Prime and the foremost concern of every Division of Indian Railways. Safety Organization of this Division ensures Safe running of trains and to make the system as pool proof and accident free. Train Operation is complex in nature. The complexity is relaxed through systematic timely planning and Operation with the Co-Operation and Co-Ordination of all Branches, thus paves the way for prevention of any Accident. Safety Branch functions as an Pre-post Audit Branch in checking Safety related issues and to see the system of working and the Safety rules and procedures are given sufficient attention in achieving Safer Train Operation and Maintenance of Rolling Stock is up to the required standards to see the confidence of the common public is fully assured and to disclose that Railway is the most Safer transportation system.

Accident Statistics for the past three years:

Classification	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Consequential	--	01	--
Indicative	--	01	--
Other Train Accidents	--	02	01
Yard Accidents	--	01	01

Prevention of Human Failure:

Every efforts were made and continuously made to arrest accidents attributable to Human failure by this Division. Safety checks, Surprise Inspections, Safety drives, Safety Measures and number of activities were done by this division to enhance Safety. Every area of activity involving Train Operations at Stations, Loco Sheds, Crew Lobbies, LC Gates, Worksites, Depots were constantly monitored to check that Safety is given much importance and the staff have understood the Safety rules and rigidly observing them. Regular foot plate inspections, Ambush Checks, Conducting of Safety Drives, Safety Seminars, Safety Meetings, gives an assurance that Safety Standards and absolutely maintained by this Division. Regular surprises inspections conducted at Stations/Yards, Running trains, at running rooms besides safety counselling helps Safety Department to ensure that chances of committing Human error is completely rooted out and Safety rules are well understood and implicitly followed by the Staff.

Human Resources Development:

Training of Staff to improve the Knowledge, Skill and Attitude is fully ensured by monitoring the staff attendance to Refresher Courses in time and for attending Periodical

Medical Examination as and when due. and over due is not allowed. Various Training Centers provided for Loco running Staff, Traffic, Engineering, Mechanical Staff across the Division facilitates improved Training Methods and Learning through Simulator models to offer higher standard of Training to the Staff.

Safety Standards:

Checking the SWR of Stations with ground realities and the maintenance and Upkeep of Safety equipments involved in Safe Train Operations, Adherence of Safety rules and procedures are constantly monitored through on the spot field inspections and surprise checks.. Special emphasis is focused on pit line maintenance and sufficient attention is paid to see that maintenance standards of Rolling stock is kept to the Satisfaction and to the requirement.

Role of Safety Organization:

Timely completion of Accident Enquiry proceedings and advising to Headquarters within the time frame and conducting of Safety Audits, Safety Drives and keeping liaison with Core Branches in checking and observing the Safety issues and organizing Safety Seminars and conducting Weekly Safety Meetings with Branch Officers are some of the vital activities of the Safety Organization. This Organization is also involves in issuing Safety Circulars, Propagating Safety consciousness among the Staff and to the common public by printing and releasing of Safety posters, Safety literatures, pamphlets and developing CD slides. Compliance reports of Safety Audits after corrective actions were send in time and Staff who worked with Safety consciousness are being awarded up to the level of CSO/DRM to motivate them. This organization fully absorbed its role and welcomes the suggestions for Safety improvement.

Disaster Management Plan:

The Division is well equipped in dealing with any train accident to see that Relief and Rescue operations are timely and well planned. The availability of ARME Scale - I at MDU, helps to reach the Accident site without delay and within reasonable time. MDU Junction is having 140 Ton Crane also with the BD formation to enable to move quickly during Accidents. ARME Scale II area located at , DG,PLNI,VPT, TEN,TN, SCT, KKDI,MNM and MMM Stations. Disaster Management Teams are nominated and the Disaster Management plan is updated. BD & MRV Inspections, and periodical trial runs are watched to ensure the preparedness and readiness. .

Safety Measures to prevent Unmanned LC Accidents:

Unmanned LCs remains a constant threat for safe and smooth Train Operations. Periodical inspections were carried out by Officers and Inspectors of this Division to check the Safety standards of all Unmanned LCs and to check the condition of surface, Provision of various sign Boards, Checking the visibility, alignment, Provision of speed breakers. Construction of ROB/RUB/LUSW, manning, interlocking of LCs, are some of the steps taken by the division to prevent accidents and Unmanned LCs apart from various Safety propaganda measures.

Safety Propaganda Activities:

- ** Safety Slides, CD's were distributed to the Local Media, Cable TV Operators to telecast them during prime time to sensitize the public on Safe way of passing UMLCs.
- ** Safety Awareness Campaigns were organized at TNSTC Depots, driving schools, RTOs Office, Village Panchayats, Schools, Markets, Village Chavadis with Screening of Short films and with distribution of Safety Pamphlets, Literatures, Hand bills.
- ** As part of counselling Session, Ambush checks were conducted jointly by RPF, RTO Officials to emphasis the importance of Sec.131 of Motor vehicle Act and Sec.161 of Railways Act.
- ** Surprise Day/Night inspections were conducted to check the Whistling habits of LP's at the approach of UMLC's.
- ** Educative campaigns were organized at Schools, Colleges/Polytechnics through Video clippings on Safety precautions needed while passing LC's.
- ** Street plays were organized at vulnerable UMLC's., villages with singing of folksongs to create safety awareness among the public and Road users on safe method of passing UMLC's.
- ** SMS campaigns were organized and Staff of all Branches were advised to forward Safety Slogans to their friends and relatives on LC Awareness.
- ** Regular announcements were made at various stations to create public awareness on Safe ways of crossing UMLC's .

Prevention of fire:

To arrest accidents due to fire, availability of fire extinguishers, its usage and availability of fire buckets with sand and water were regularly checked during inspections at stations, pantry cars, yards, in running trains. Fire fighting procedures and methods were enlightened to the staff with practical demonstrations with RPF personnel. Electrical Department has also involved to sensitize the electrical short circuits and proper fastening of wires and sealing of junction boxes in coaches.

As Safety is the constant Endeavour and concern of every one great care and attention is paid in seeing that all aspects are given due attention and the coming years will also prove our commitment towards achieving Accident free service record.