



**HOME, PROHIBITION AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT
TAMIL NADU FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**

**POLICY NOTE
2021-2022**

DEMAND No. 23

**M.K. STALIN
Chief Minister**

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GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
2021

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INTRODUCTION

The Fire and Rescue Services Department takes pride in having devoted to save life and property of the public during natural disasters such as fire, floods, cyclones, tsunami, landslides and man-made disasters. The increase in urbanisation and life style changes, the number of high rise buildings, multi-storeyed commercial complexes and malls and new hazardous industries continue to pose major challenges for the Department. This Government emphasis will be on prevention of fires through more technology based fire safety enforcement measures.

2. OBJECTIVES

The role of the Fire and Rescue Services Department is not restricted to rescuing life and property, but it also plays a major role in fire prevention by creating safety-awareness among the public through propaganda and publicity and by conducting mock drills in Schools and among people visiting commercial complexes and those residing in multi-storeyed buildings. This Department has undertaken safety audit of public places like commercial establishments, business centres, malls, multiplexes and cinema theatres in Chennai City and major towns in the State. The focus is to provide safety to the public who congregate in such places.

The Fire and Rescue Services Department is a multidisciplinary unit, which has diverse roles in emergency situations. The Fire and Rescue Services undertakes rescue operations during natural calamities, responds to emergency calls for rescuing humans and animals from hard to

inaccessible locations. Extrication from vehicle wrecks, retrieval of mortal remains of humans, removal of animal carcasses from water bodies and deployment of the sniffer dog squad to locate missing humans are some other emergency services rendered by the Fire and Rescue Services Department.

The Department performs an advisory role to the various regulating authorities for inspection of premises and trades proposed to be licensed by them to ensure fire-safety under various laws and rules. Public fairs and Exhibitions are permitted only after obtaining a "No Objection Certificate" from the Fire and Rescue Services Department.

The Department works hand-in-hand with other Departments such as Police, Revenue and Medical Services in times of caste, communal clashes and terrorist attacks. The ambulance services available with the Department are used to transport the sick and the injured to the hospitals for immediate medical attention. This

Department undertakes safety arrangements during the visits of VIPs and during important conferences and meetings / festivals, where huge pandals are erected.

For the purpose of prevention of fires through more technology based fire safety enforcement measures, the existing Fire Services Act 1985 will be thoroughly overhauled.

3. GROWTH OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES DEPARTMENT (HISTORY)

The Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services Department has firmly established a reputation as one of the largest and most efficient fire fighting organizations in the country. The Fire Brigade which was initially formed as a Small City-based Fire Fighting Force called "Madras Fire Brigade" in the year 1908 was under the control of the Commissioner of Police, Madras. It continued to develop gradually and expanded to 55 fire stations in the year 1945.

The Fire Services Department was established as a separate entity by carving it out from the Police Department in 1967. This Department was entrusted with the twin-tasks of Fire fighting and rescue related ambulance services. This Department was given a new identity corresponding to its role and was renamed as the "Fire and Rescue Services Department" by the Government in 2001. In a landmark policy initiative, in the year 2001, the Government appointed women in the Department, thereby becoming the first Fire and Rescue Services Department in the Country with women officers in its role. The Government have initiated various schemes to modernize the Department and motivate the personnel with various welfare measures.

Now, the Department has 349 Fire and Rescue Services Stations apart from 3 exclusive Rescue Stations at Hogenakkal, Kotagiri and Marina.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE SETUP

The Fire and Rescue Services Department functions under the administrative control of Home Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. An IPS officer in the rank of the Director General of Police is the head of the Department. This Department is divided into five Regions. Each Region is headed by a Joint Director or Deputy Director. A Joint Director is in-charge of the State Training Centre, Tambaram. Apart from this, in the Directorate, the Director is assisted by Additional Director (Operation and Training), Additional Director (Administration), Deputy Director (Headquarters), Deputy Director (Administration) and two Administrative Personal Assistants (viz., Administration and Accounts). The Regions are further divided into 39 Districts and each District is headed by a District Officer, Fire and Rescue Services. The basic unit in the Administrative setup of the Fire and Rescue Services Department is the Fire and Rescue

Services Station, which is headed by a Station Officer, functioning under the overall control of the District Officer. The State Training Centre organizes and conducts training for the personnel of this Department, the public in Fire-Fighting. There is also a State Workshop in Chennai which undertake repairs and maintenance of vehicle function under the control of the Joint Director (Training and Rescue Operation). The Administrative setup of the Fire and Rescue Services Department is given in Table-I and Table-II.

A separate Dog Squad is formed for use in the Fire and Rescue Services Department. The Dog Squad will enable locating persons who are buried and / or struggling for survival under the debris of collapsed buildings.

5. INTEGRATED SYSTEMS TO ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE FIRE LOSS CONTROL

This Government emphasis will be on prevention of fires through more technology based fire safety enforcement measures. The location of new fire stations will be on the basis of a scientific mapping exercise to reduce response time with the help of Global Positioning System (GPS).

For formation of a single Unit Fire and Rescue Services Station, the following staff pattern is prescribed by the Government:-

Station Officer	-	1
Leading Fireman	-	2
Driver Mechanic	-	1
Fireman Driver	-	2
Fireman	-	11
Total	=	<u>17</u>

The District wise break up details of the Fire and Rescue Services Stations are given in Table –III.

6. MAN POWER AND INFRASTRUCTURE

a) Man Power

The Fire and Rescue Services Department has an executive and ministerial strength of 8069 persons. The posts of District Officer, Assistant Engineer (Automobile) in the State Workshop, Station Officers, Junior Assistants, Typists and Steno-Typists are recruited through Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission. Direct recruitment of Firemen is done by the Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board (TNUSRB).

b) Vehicles

The Department has been provided with 371 Water Tenders, 58 Ambulances, 29 Small Foam Tenders, 21 Emergency Rescue Tenders, 2 Aerial Ladder Platforms of 104 m, 2 Aerial Ladder Platforms of 37 m & 42 m respectively, 3 Aerial Ladder Platforms of 54 m, 55 Water Lorry, 1 Wrecker, 2 Mobile Repair Vans, 60 Motor Bikes fitted with Portable Water mist cum

compressed Air Foam, 5 Mini Water Tenders of 600 liters capacity with water mist technology, 115 Mini Water Tenders of 350 liters capacity with water mist technology, 19 Advanced Water Tenders, 4 Pickup Van, 5 Educational Van, 5 Bowser, 3 Troop Carrier and 3 Commando Vehicles.

c) Equipments

In order to undertake rescue activities very effectively, apart from Fire and Rescue vehicles, in emergency situations such as Floods and Cyclones, Landslides, Building collapse, Earthquakes, Industrial Explosions and Road / Rail Accidents, this Department has been provided with the following Modern and Specialized Gadgets:-

Sl. No.	Name of the equipment	No. of Units
1	Inflatable Rubber Boat with Life Buoys and Life Jackets	125
2	Inflatable Rubber Boat with Motors	73

3	Thermal Imaging Camera	19
4	Multi-Gas Monitors	13
5	Search Lights	620
6	Rechargeable Torch Lights	377
7	Inflatable Emergency Lighting System	98
8	Power Saws with Generators	80
9	Portable Type Petrol Driven Power Saws	300
10	Concrete Cutters	61
11	Smoke Extractors	66
12	Portable Electric Drills	51
13	Life Buoy	4770
14	Life Jackets	3419
15	Public Address System	1536
16	Telescopic Ladders	54
17	Breathing Apparatus Sets	626
18	Helmets	4617
19	Personal Protective Equipment	3778
20	Heat Resistant Gloves	120
21	High Range Portable Pumps	34
22	Dewatering Heavy Duty Pump	9
23	Submersible Dewatering Pumps	6
24	Manual Combi Tool	30
25	Manila Ropes 50 Meter	460
26	Manila Ropes 100 Meter	608
27	Manila Ropes 130 Meter	1222
28	Hydraulic Combi Tools	53
29	Battery Operated Combi Tools	6
30	Hydraulic Cutters	38

31	Hydraulic Spreader	30
32	Extension Ladder	396
33	Rope Ladder	65
34	Single Ladder	285
35	Snake Catcher	383
36	Bore well Rescue Equipment	9
37	Stretchers / Spine Boards	336
38	Air Lifting Bag	48
39	Rope Launcher	5
40	Victim Location Camera	10
41	Rope Riders	5
42	Floto Pumps	56
43	Portable Pumps	56
44	Breathing Apparatus Set Compressor	1
45	Oscillating Monitors	4
46	Video Camera	2
47	Fire Entry Suits	169
48	Chemical Protective Suits	84
49	Scuba Diving Suits	30
50	Generator	18
51	Mechanized Fiber Boats	8
52	Life Detectors	4
53	Reciprocating Saws	50
54	Portable Electrically Operated Circular Saws	70
55	Power Saw with inbuilt motors	116
56	Electric Gloves	100
57	Rubber Gloves	60
58	Tent	1

7. COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

a) Telephones and Wireless Sets

Each Fire and Rescue Services Stations has been provided with telephone facility. A modern fire control room with toll-free telephone numbers '101' and '102' is functioning in Chennai City and the Toll-free telephone facility '101' is available in all District Headquarters and large towns.

In order to ensure effective communication system among fire fighting officers in rendering service to the public, Common User Group (CUG) has been introduced in Cell phones from the rank of Station Officer and above with effect from December 2009. This system serves as a wide network throughout the State with free call charges among the officers. It is easy for the public to remember the mobile number of the Station Officer in their area since the number will be a permanent one.

All the Fire and Rescue Services Stations in Chennai City, Thiruvallur District and Kancheepuram District are linked with its headquarters with wireless communication to cater to the communication needs. All officers and executive staff have been connected on a CUG mobile number.

b) Response Time

Response time is the time taken by the first fire unit to reach the scene of a fire accident / rescue spot. Despite traffic congestion, the Department is constantly endeavoring to reduce the response time to the minimum. The location of new fire stations will be on the basis of a scientific mapping exercise to reduce response time.

c) Departmental Website

A Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter page are also functioning to reach out to the public in distress. A website for the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services with the address

<http://www.tnfrs.tn.gov.in> is maintained by the National Informatics Centre. This website provides complete information about the Department and its activities and plays a vital role in educating the Public on Fire-Safety, providing inputs on norms for fire licences, safety provisions to be adopted in various occupancies as per the National Building Code of India and other Statutory Rules.

8. TRAINING FACILITIES

The State Training Centre at Tambaram is equipped with necessary vehicles and gadgets to impart quality training to its personnel at all levels. This includes modern developments and techniques.

Air-conditioned class rooms, Media projectors, Computers and Internet connection, Library and Excellent accommodation with canteen facilities help to enrich the quality of training. The Government of India, Ministry of

Home Affairs have designated the State Training Centre of Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services Department as one of the Regional Training Centers in the Country for conducting courses offered by the National Fire Service College, Nagpur.

The State Training Centre is also conducting training for Fire fighters from other states, Public Sector Undertakings, Government Institutions and the Public. Basic Fire-fighting training is offered to private individuals at all District Headquarters for a period of one week on payment of a fee of Rs.1000/- per person.

The Fire and Rescue Services Department aims at creating resource persons in society towards fire and life safety and in Disaster Management, besides training fire fighters to upgrade knowledge and skill levels on par with International standards by staying abreast of modern developments in the field of technology used for Fire-fighting and Rescue.

Basic training is imparted at State Training Center to all candidates selected for the post of fireman and by creation of temporary Training Centers at various Districts.

9. BUILDINGS

The Fire and Rescue Services Station is the lifeline of the Department and works round the clock. About 45 cents of land is required for construction of a Fire and Rescue Services Station building. Out of the 352 Stations in the Department, 266 Stations are now functioning in own or rent-free Government buildings and 86 stations are housed in rented buildings.

The Government is keen on construction of a new building for the Fire and Rescue Services Stations for which land has been earmarked and acquired. Construction of 38 new buildings for Fire and Rescue Services Stations by the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation Limited is in progress at various stages.

10. INITIATIVES TAKEN FOR PREVENTING FIRE

Fire prevention, is a proactive method for reducing the number of emergencies and the ensuing damage. In order to intensify the fire prevention work, this Department has Fire prevention wings in 13 districts. Fire prevention work is also undertaken by the Fire and Rescue Services Stations, wherever a separate prevention wing is not available. Fire safety awareness programmes in the form of Mock Drills, Exhibitions, Stage plays, Short films are conducted in Schools, Industries, Offices, Hutment areas, Multi-storeyed Buildings etc.

Annual National Level Fire and Evacuation Drills in schools is being observed on January 21st of every year, throughout the Country. Evacuation Drills are conducted in any one of the schools in each District to create fire safety awareness and to educate children about the evacuation procedures, in case of emergency arising from the

outbreak of fire. During Fire Service Week from April 14th to April 20th, this Department conducts intensive propaganda and safety campaigns.

Mandatory fire safety inspections are being undertaken in schools by Station Officer in order to ensure fire and life safety in the premises. The Station Officers in the concerned Jurisdiction issues a 'No Objection Certificate' to the schools after an inspection and audit and after safety systems are installed.

For enlightening the public in reducing the Fire Accidents during Deepavali festival, awareness programmes screened in television and theatres throughout the State by using famous actors. Further pamphlets on safety tips for fire protection are distributed in public places.

11. SAFETY VOLUNTEERS

To involve the common Public as a support for the Fire and Rescue Services Department, Fire Safety Volunteers are being enrolled from Schools, Colleges and Self-Help Groups. They are

trained in various elementary Fire Fighting skills and Rescue methods. This Department presently has 5297 Volunteers. These trained Volunteers have been a great source of assistance for the fire service personnel in times of emergencies.

12. PREVENTION OF FIRE IN MULTI-STOREYED BUILDINGS AND HOSPITALS

High Rise Building Inspection Committee conducts inspections in Multi-Storeyed Buildings, Educational Institutions Commercial Complexes, Public Buildings, Hospitals and Multi-occupancies and send reports to the appropriate Licensing Authorities. This Department also conducts Fire Safety Audits in Government buildings.

The following important preventive measures are verified before granting licenses to multiplexes and hospitals:-

- i. Provision of adequate Fire Extinguishers and a First Aid box in the Cinema Theatre operator's room;

- ii. Provision of Sprinklers and Smoke Detectors in Multiplex Cinema Theatres
- iii. Provision of adequate Fire Buckets with sand and water;
- iv. Provision of adequate water storage for continuous Fire-Fighting;
- v. Construction of False Ceiling and Wall Decoration with Fire proof materials;
- vi. Provision of adequate Emergency Exits;
- vii. Training of attendants and staff in the use of fire fighting equipment maintained in the premises.
- viii. Provision of adequate Fire Extinguishers and Hose reel systems.
- ix. Provision of Sprinklers and Smoke Detectors in areas on the suggestion of the Local Fire Authority.
- x. Provision of adequate width of Corridor and Exits for the movement of stretcher patients.
- xi. Provision of Smoke Check Doors or Compartments.

- xii. Provision of adequate Emergency Exits and mandatory Ramps in hospitals.
- xiii. Illuminated Signages and Fire order.
- xiv. Training of Nurses and Staff in the use of all Fire-Fighting Equipment maintained in the premises.

13. MOBILE PATROLLING DURING SUMMER SEASON AND DEEPAVALI

A system of Mobile Patrolling is followed during the months of April, May, June and July every year. Vulnerability Mapping is done by identifying vulnerable areas based on statistics of the previous year's Fire and Rescue incidents and patrolling vehicles are placed strategically.

14. FIRE SERVICE DAY

Fire Service Day is observed on 14th April, every year. On this day the brave personnel of Fire and Rescue Department who lost their lives are commemorated. Commencing from April 14,

for a week, Fire Service day is commemorated every year by propagating a fire safety campaign amongst all sections of people including public and employees. Several competitions relating to fire safety are conducted amongst students all over the State.

15. WELFARE MEASURES

Orders have been issued for Automatic upgradation of personnel to the next level on completion of 15 and 25 years of service in Fire and Rescue Services Department.

(i) Fire and Rescue Services Benevolent Fund

The Fire and Rescue Services Benevolent Fund provides financial help to the members of the Fire and Rescue Services Department in distress. The number of persons registered with the fund is 5,983. It promotes their welfare by granting financial assistance to the members for the following purposes:

- (a) to purchase nutritious food for themselves and for their dependants who are suffering from chronic diseases such as tuberculosis, leprosy, cancer etc
- (b) to meet the cost of higher education of their children
- (c) to provide relief to the families of deceased members
- (d) to meet the funeral expenses of the members and their dependants

(ii) Group Insurance Scheme

In order to help the families of Fire and Rescue Services personnel who die while on duty, a 'Group Insurance Scheme' covering all categories of fire fighting personnel is implemented. Under this scheme, a financial assistance of Rs.4.00 lakh has been provided to District Officer, Deputy Director, Joint Director and Rs.2.00 lakh has been provided to the rank of Fireman to Assistant District Officer.

(iii) Food Subsidy Scheme

Food articles are supplied to Fire and Rescue Service personnel up to the rank of Assistant District Officer at subsidised rate through the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation. Under this scheme food articles such as wheat, sugar, maida and dal are supplied.

(iv) Dietary charges for personnel

Fire and Rescue Services Personnel up to the rank of Assistant District Officers and Station Officers (Transport) are paid dietary charges for attending to fire calls, rescue calls and for mobilization duty during emergencies at the rate of Rs.300/- per day in Chennai City and Rs.250/- per day in the mofussil areas.

(v) Canteen facility for purchase of commodities at subsidized rates

The canteen facility catering to the families of serving, retired and deceased Police Personnel has been extended to the Fire and Rescue Services personnel and also extended to

Ministerial Staff of Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services Department by the Government.

(vi) Construction of quarters

For personnel of Fire and Rescue Services Department rent free quarters are allotted near the working place for easy and quick mobilization and also to augment strength in case of an emergency. At present, 1329 quarters are available throughout the State and construction of 196 quarters in various places is under progress. Quarters are constructed through Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation Limited. In Melakottaiyur Village 113 houses have been allotted to the Officers and personnel of Fire and Rescue Services Department.

16. MEDALS AND AWARDS

In order to motivate personnel of the Fire and Rescue Services Department who risk their lives while performing their duties, the following

medals and awards are being awarded by the Government:-

(a) The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Fire Service Medal (Anna Medal)

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Fire Service Medal for outstanding devotion to duty (Anna Medal) is awarded on the occasion of Perarignar Anna's Birthday, on 15th September every year. The recipients of this medal for Meritorious Service are eligible for a lump sum grant varying between Rs.4000/- to Rs.10,000/- according to their rank.

(b) The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Fire Service Medal for Gallantry (Anna Medal)

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Fire Service Medal for Gallantry (Anna Medal) recipients are eligible for a lumpsum cash reward amount of Rs.5 lakh.

(c) The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Fire Service Medal

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Fire Service Medal is awarded on Pongal Day, every year, to recognize the services of personnel below the rank of Station Officers who enjoy a clean record of service for more than 10 years. All these recipients are entitled to receive a cash allowance of Rs.400/- per month.

(d) The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Fire Service Medal for Excellence

As a recognition of excellence in performance of duty by the Fire and Rescue Services personnel 6 Medals are awarded on the occasion of Fire Service Day i.e. April 14th. Each awardee receives a Gold Medal weighing 8 grams and a lump sum grant varying between Rs.2000/- to Rs.3000/- according to their rank.

(e) Other Medals

In addition, the following medals are awarded by the Government of India based on recommendations of the State Government:-

- (i) The President's Fire Service Medal for Distinguished / Meritorious Service on the occasion of Independence Day and Republic Day.
- (ii) The President's Fire Service Medal for Gallantry on the occasion of Independence Day/ Republic Day.

17. SPORTS

Every year, this Department conducts sports events at the Regional Level and thereafter at the State Level. In order to maintain the physical fitness, competitions on Athletics, Badminton, Volley Ball, Foot Ball and Swimming are conducted. In order to enhance Fire-Fighting and Rescue capabilities among personnel, competitions in quick Fire Fighting and Rescue techniques, Hose Laying, Ladder Drills, Rope Climbing, Pump Drill and operation of Fire Fighting

/ Rescue Vehicles are conducted. Considering the importance of sports, the Government sanctioned Grants for conduct of Regional sports and State sports events.

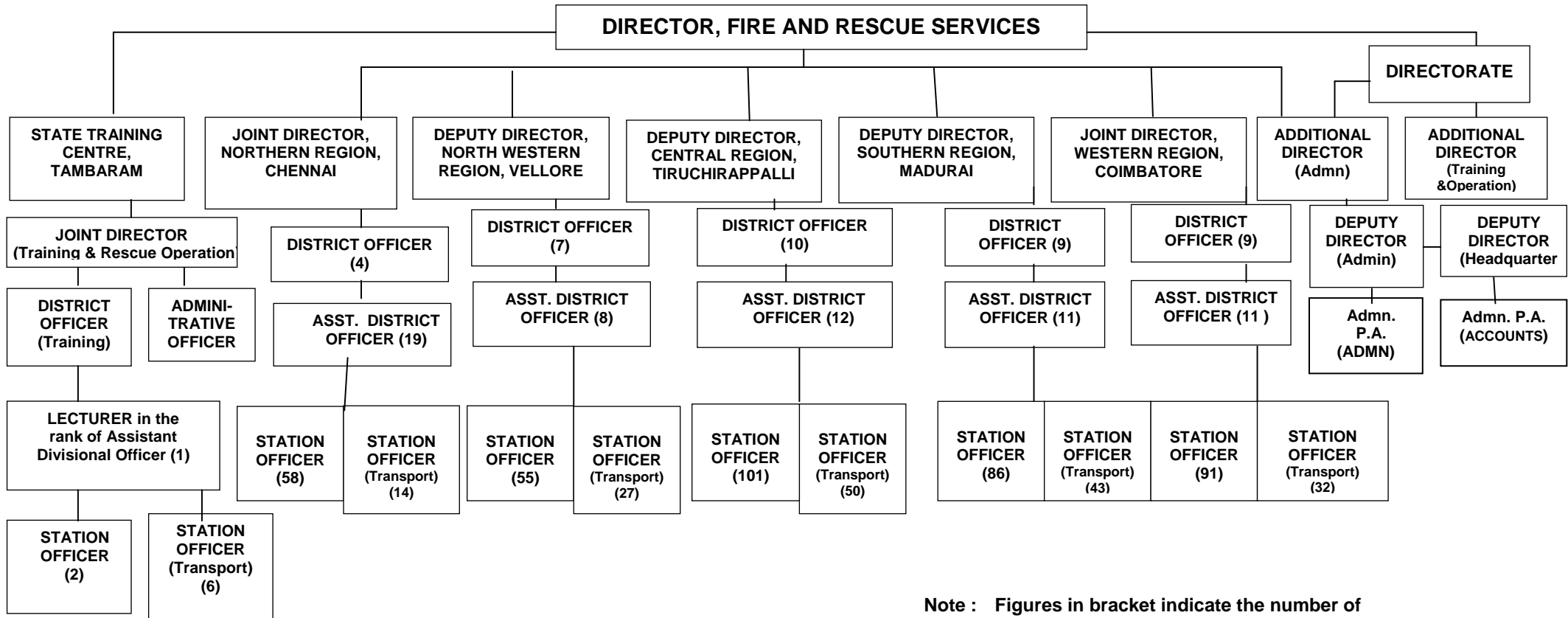
18. CONCLUSION

Fires and various preventable accidents cause considerable human and economic loss. This Government emphasis will be on prevention of fire through more technology based fire safety enforcement measures. For this purpose, the existing Fire Services Act 1985 will be thoroughly overhauled. The location of new fire stations will be on the basis of a scientific mapping exercise to reduce response time. Adequate equipment including training simulators and Personal Protective Equipments (PPE) uniforms will be provided to the Fire and Rescue Services Department and the Department's functions will be improved.

M.K.Stalin,
Chief Minister

TABLE – I

**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES
ORGANISATIONAL CHART**



Note : Figures in bracket indicate the number of officers in that cadre.

TABLE – II

STATION AND OTHER UNITS FUNCTIONING UNDER THE REGIONS

Northern Region	North-Western Region	Central Region	Southern Region	Western Region	Total Number of Fire and Rescue Services Station in the State : 349+3@																																																																																																																																																																							
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TABLE - III

**District Wise Fire and Rescue Services
Stations**

Sl. No	District	No. of Stations
1	Ariyalur	3
2	Chennai (Including one Rescue station at Marina)	42
3	Coimbatore	13
4	Cuddalore	15
5	Dindigul	10
6	Dharmapuri + One Rescue Station at Hogenakkal	6
7	Erode	11
8	Karur	3
9	Kancheepuram	4
10	Chengalpat	9
11	Kanniyakumari	8

12	Krishnagiri	7
13	Madurai	14
14	Nagapattinam	14
15	Namakkal	6
16	The Nilgirs + one Rescue Station at Kothagiri	4
17	Pudukottai	13
18	Perambalur	2
19	Ramanathapuram	11
20	Salem	14
21	Sivagangai	6
22	Thanjavur	9
23	Theni	9
24	Tiruvannamalai	13
25	Tiruchirapalli	11
26	Thiruvarur	12

27	Thiruvallur	9
28	Thoothukudi	10
29	Tiruppur	8
30	Tirunelveli	7
31	Tenkasi	8
32	Vellore	5
33	Thirupathur	5
34	Ranipet	6
35	Villupuram	8
36	Kallakurichi	7
37	Virudhunagar	10
	Total	352

