Session 4

Class 1 on Fire Fighting: Causes of Fire, Fire Extinction, Classification of Fires, Fire Fighting, Equipment: their operation – maintenance & refilling, Fire prevention

Performing a field survey on fire fighting involves assessing the existing provisions and practices related to fire safety and firefighting within the organization. Here's an outline for conducting a field survey on various aspects of fire fighting:

Objective: Define the objective of the field survey, which could be to evaluate the organization's preparedness for fire prevention, fire extinguishment, and maintenance of firefighting equipment.

Fire Safety Measures and Hazard Identification:

a. Hazard Identification: Conduct a thorough assessment of the organization's premises to identify potential fire hazards. This includes sources of ignition, combustible materials, electrical equipment, flammable liquids, and other fire-prone areas.

b. Fire Safety Measures: Review existing fire safety measures in place, such as fire alarms, emergency exits, evacuation plans, fire-resistant building materials, and proper storage practices for flammable substances.

Classification of Fires and Fire Extinguishment:

a. Fire Classification: Evaluate if the organization follows recognized fire classification systems (e.g., Class A, B, C, D, or K) to categorize different types of fires based on the fuel involved. Verify if fire classification labels are displayed in appropriate areas.

b. Fire Extinguishers: Assess the availability, condition, and proper placement of fire extinguishers throughout the organization. Verify if different types of fire extinguishers suitable for different classes of fires are provided, such as water, foam, CO2, dry chemical, or specialized extinguishers.

c. Fire Extinguishment Training: Evaluate the training provided to employees on the proper use of fire extinguishers. Verify if employees are familiar with the types of extinguishers available, their appropriate usage, and the limitations of each type.

Firefighting Equipment:

a. Fire Suppression Systems: Assess the functionality and maintenance of automatic fire suppression systems, such as sprinkler systems, gas-based systems (e.g., FM-200), or foam-based systems. Verify if regular inspections, testing, and maintenance activities are conducted.

b. Fire Hoses and Hydrants: Evaluate the condition and accessibility of fire hoses, hydrants, and related equipment. Verify if these are properly maintained, regularly tested, and have adequate water supply for firefighting purposes.

c. Firefighting Tools: Assess the availability and condition of firefighting tools, such as fire axes, fire blankets, fire buckets, and fireproof clothing. Verify if these tools are easily accessible, properly maintained, and employees are trained in their use.

Fire Prevention Measures:

a. Fire Prevention Training: Evaluate the effectiveness of fire prevention training provided to employees. Verify if employees are educated on fire safety protocols, hazard identification, safe storage practices, and proper use of electrical equipment.

b. Smoking Areas and Policies: Assess the designated smoking areas, if applicable, and ensure they are located in safe areas away from potential fire hazards. Verify if there are clear smoking policies and if smoking materials are properly disposed of in designated containers.

c. Electrical Safety Measures: Evaluate the organization's electrical safety practices, including regular inspection and maintenance of electrical systems, proper wiring practices, and the use of circuit breakers and ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) as required.

Fire Safety Drills and Evacuation Plans:

a. Fire Drill Procedures: Assess the organization's fire drill procedures, including frequency, notification methods, and evacuation protocols. Verify if drills are conducted regularly, documented, and include scenarios for different types of emergencies.

b. Evacuation Routes and Signage: Evaluate the effectiveness of evacuation routes, exit signs, and emergency lighting. Verify if these are clearly marked, unobstructed, and well-maintained to facilitate safe evacuation during emergencies.

Maintenance and Refilling of Firefighting Equipment:

a. Inspection and Testing: Evaluate the procedures for inspecting and testing firefighting equipment, such as fire extinguishers, fire hoses, and fire suppression systems. Verify if inspections are conducted by qualified personnel and if testing is carried out according to recommended schedules.

b. Maintenance and Refilling: Assess the maintenance practices, including routine servicing and refilling of fire extinguishers, fire suppression systems, and other firefighting equipment. Verify if these activities are performed by authorized technicians and records are maintained.

Report and Recommendations: Document the findings of the field survey, including observations, identified gaps, and recommended actions. Prioritize recommendations based on the severity of risks, regulatory compliance, and best practices. Prepare a comprehensive report to share with relevant stakeholders and management.

Note: Ensure the field survey is performed by qualified personnel with expertise in fire safety and firefighting. Follow all applicable safety protocols, regulations, and guidelines during the survey. Consult local fire safety codes and organization-specific procedures for guidance on fire prevention and firefighting requirements.