**FIRE AND RESCUE STATISTICS – 2015**

1. **Introduction**

The Fire and Rescue Statistical Report presents data on fire incidents, special assistance as well as fire and other emergency awareness campaign compiled from administrative data collected by the Main Control Room and the Fire Safety Division of the Fire and Rescue Service.

The data refer to the Island of Mauritius only. The Main Control Room receives all incoming emergency calls in the country, dispatches fire crews to incident location and monitors management of operations on incident grounds.

However, the fire station boundaries may be different from that of district boundaries. Any turn out of firecalls and special assistance cover area beyond the station and district boundaries.

It is hoped that the data and information in this report will be useful to the public in general and in particular to policy makers, planners and researchers.

The report is available on the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service website at the following link: <http://mfrs.govmu.org/English/Statistics/Pages/default.aspx>, and can be accessed from the Statistics Mauritius website at: <http://statsmauritius.govmu.org/English/StatsbySubj/Pages/default.aspx>

1. **Highlights**
* The Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service attended 9,847 fire incidents and special assistance in Mauritius during 2015. This was 1,281 lower (12%) than in 2014.
* The average time taken by the fire crew to reach the incident location improved from 8 minutes in 2014 to 7 minutes in 2015.
* Out of the 6,143 fire outbreak attended in 2015, 54% were outside fire, 34% were sugar cane fire and 10% were structural fire. The number of fire outbreak was 2,226 lower (27%) than the previous year.
* During 2015, the Fire and Rescue Service attended around 3,704 special assistance incidents. This was 945 more (34%) compared to 2014.
* There were 3,704 special assistance attended out of which 30% were pumping due to accumulation of water. Some 595 more turn outs for accumulation of water were registered than in 2014.
* Some 760 applications were received for fire certificate and 1,481 for fire clearance. The number of fire certificate issued with respect to total applications received increase from 687 in 2014 to 840 in 2015. The number of fire clearance issued was 1,373 compared to 1,044 in 2014.
* The Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service undertook 528 public education activities in Mauritius during 2015.

**3. Average time taken to reach incident spot**

One of the service performance indicators is the time taken to reach an incident location most particularly in case of structural fires where human life may be at stake. The set target is 12 minutes. This indicator enables one to gauge the efficiency and the effectiveness of the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service to promptly respond to an emergency situation. From data obtained with regards to structural fires for the year 2015, it is observed that on average, the fire crew took approximately 7 minutes to reach the location, compared to 8 minutes in 2014 . Average time taken to reach incident places in Mauritius was at par with country such as England with a response time of 7 minutes 45 seconds to dwelling fires.

The time taken by each fire station varies due to the area coverage and the ease of accessibility. The average response time was lower in predominantly urban areas. Port Louis Fire Station took 5 minutes to reach the incident location and for Coromandel Fire Station, it was 6 minutes. St Aubin and Piton Fire Station, being in rural areas, took around one or two minutes above the average time to reach the area of fire.

1. **Fire and rescue service statistics**

The Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service attended around 9,847 incidents in 2015, with 6,143 turn outs for firecalls and 3,704 for special assistance. Fire incidents accounted for around 62% of the fire and rescue services and special assistance was 38%.

From 2014 to 2015, the number of fire incidents and special assistance attended by the fire stations decreased by 12% from 11,128 to 9,847.

1. **Fire outbreak by type of fire incidents**

In 2015, out of the 6,143 fire incidents attended, the majority (54%) comprised of outside fire such as grass and rubbish fire followed by sugar cane (34%) and buildings (10%).

A fall of 27% in the number of fire incidents dealt with by fire crews was registered from 8,369 to 6,143. This can be explained mainly by decreases of 42% in grass fires from 2,762 to 1,599 and 40% in forest/trees fires from 214 to 129. Similarly, sugar cane fire went down by 725 (26%) and rubbish fire by 305 (18%). An estimated number of around 9,054 acres of sugar cane field was damaged in 2015 as compared to 16,525 in 2014.

On the other hand, there was a rise of 11% in residential building fires from 388 in 2014 to 432 in 2015. Non-residential building fires increased slightly by 22% from 148 to 180.

1. **Special Assistance**

In 2015, non-fire incidents which was 3,704, made up of around 38% of all incidents attended by the fire and rescue service. There were 1,129 turn outs effected for pumping of accumulation of water, 1,050 for flushing of roads and other places, and 582 for cutting of trees or branches among others.

From 2014 to 2015, the number of special assistance attended went up by 34% from 2,759 to 3,704. The number of pumping due to accumulation of water during torrential rains dealt with almost doubled from 534 in 2014 to 1,129 in 2015, representing an increase of around 111%. Flushing of roads after accidents also went up by 56% from 163 to 254.

**7. Application of fire certificate and fire clearance received and issued**

Fire certificate and fire clearance are issued only upon receipt of applications. Inspections are carried out to see whether the premises satisfy the fire safety norms. If those premises satisfy the fire safety norms, then fire certificate or fire clearance are issued upon receipt of an appropriate fee.

In 2015, some 760 applications were received in respect of buildings, filling stations, fuel depots, and other fire hazardous premises throughout the island for the purpose of fire certification. There were 840 fire certificates issued out of those applications received. An increase of 22% in the number of certificates issued was registered in 2015, up from 687 in 2014.

Applications received for fire clearance as regards tourist residence, guest house, stores where insecticide, pesticide, herbicide and LPG are kept were 1,481 in 2015 while fire clearance issued were 1,373. Compared to 2014, the number of clearance issued rose by 32% from 1,044 to 1,373.

1. **Public education activities**

In 2015, the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service undertook 528 awareness campaigns. These campaigns were conducted with respect to fire and other emergency safety measures through talks, lectures, demonstrations and broadcast to the population. From 2014 to 2015, an increase of nearly 47 (10%) of such activities was registered.

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