

Three-Day Training Program on Disaster Management for Frontline Staff of Kerala Forest Department



Kerala State Disaster Management Authority

25th February – 27th February 2021

**Three-Day Training Program on Disaster Management for Frontline Staff of
Kerala Forest Department**

Training Report

Introduction

The proposal to impart training to frontline staff of Kerala Forest Department was put forward by the HRD wing of Kerala Forest Department aimed at making the staff equipped in handling a disaster situation. The forest department staff reaches the disaster site in most cases and act as first respondents. The KSDMA processed the proposal immediately and initiated a meeting with Mr. Abdul Azeez, Assistant Conservator of Forests, HRD wing on 06-02-2021 to conduct a Training Needs Assessment (TNA). Mr. Joe John George, State Project Officer and Mr. Nikhil. S, Hazard Analyst (Forestry) represented KSDMA in the meeting. The meeting was highly effective and both parties put forward their views and discussions were made on the topics to be included in the training schedule. Then draft schedule was then prepared including topics as per the TNA meeting. The draft schedule was approved by the Member Secretary and forwarded to the HRD wing for further action. The training was scheduled from 25th to 27th February 2021.

Schedule of training

Sl. No.	Date	Time	Topic	Subtopics	Objectives	Speaker
1	25-02-2021	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Disaster Management overview- India and Kerala	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DM Act• Evolution of DM• DM Institutions	To make the participants aware about the history of DM in India and Kerala	Dr. Sreeja M U. Hazard Analyst, KSDMA
2		11:30 AM – 01:00 PM	Role of SDMA and early warnings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activities carried out by SDMA• Type of early warnings provided	To make the participants aware about the various DM activities carried out by SDMA, early warnings and the	Mr. Fahad Marzook, Hazard Analyst, KSDMA

					methods of warning dissemination.	
3		02:00 AM – 04:00 PM	Survival skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survival techniques from various disasters • Mental health after a disaster 	The session is aimed at making the participants aware about how to make ourselves safe from a disaster	Mr. Ronu Mathew, Hazard Analyst, KSDMA
4	26-02-2021	10:00 AM – 01:00 PM	Rescue operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rescue principles • Various rescue techniques for different disasters 	The session will provide the participants what to do and what not to do during a disaster rescue	Mr.D.Praveen Station Officer Fire and Rescue Dept
5		02:00 AM – 4.00 PM	Floating techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparations to face a flood. • How to make devices for floating during a flood situation 	The session will make the participants equipped in creating floating devices by themselves during the time of an emergency.	Mr. Suraj Institute of Advanced Training in Water Rescue
6	27-02-2021	10:00 AM – 01:00 PM	First aid training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic first aid • CPR • Reviving techniques for various disaster situations 	The session will provide on-hands training for the participants on various first aid and life revival techniques	Dr.Srikanth.D Surgeon, General Hospital, Trivandrum

7	02:00 AM – 04:00 PM	Forest fire management and experience sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Techniques in forest fire management • Inputs from Dept. staff for improvising forest fire management practice. 	The session is aimed to be an interaction with the participants for sharing their forest fire management experience and recommendations for making forest fire management more effective.	Mr. Nikhil S, Hazard Analyst, KSDMA
---	---------------------	---	--	---	-------------------------------------

Day 1 (25-02-2021)

The training program officially began by the addressing of the function by Smt. Neethu Lakshmi. M IFS, Conservator of Forests, HRD. She reiterated the need of basic training in disaster management for forest officials as they are the first respondents in a disaster scenario. The first session was handled by Dr. Sreeja M.U, Hazard Analyst, DDMA Kollam.



Fig. 1. Session on Disaster Management overview- India and Kerala by Dr. Sreeja M U

The participants who were completely alien to the discipline of Disaster Management were given an idea about the DM institutions as well as DM network in the country and the state. The history and evolution of disaster management was well explained by the speaker. Special emphasis was given on the importance of DM act during a disaster scenario. The second session was managed by Mr. Fahad Marzook, Hazard Analyst (Met), SDMA. The role of KSDMA during disasters and the different types of early warnings disseminated from KSDMA was explained in this session. The final session of the day was handled by Mr. Ronu Mathew, Hazard Analyst (Public Health) on Survival skills during a disaster. Things to be taken care of during a disaster and mental health during and after disasters were discussed in this session. The participants were keen to discuss about the different incidents they faced during the various major disasters of the previous years.

Day 2 (26-02-2021)

The second day of the training was exclusively dedicated for resource persons from the Kerala Fire and Rescue Department. The first session was a detailed one on Rescue operations. The training was led by Mr. D. Praveen, Station Officer. The session was very interactive and included different rescue techniques from various disasters such as flood, landslide, forest fire, lightning, etc. The participants were heavily involved in the sessions with their field experience and questions.



Fig. 2 Session on Rescue Operations by Mr. D. Praveen

The afternoon session was handled by Mr. Suraj. The trainer and his team are resource persons from Institute of Advanced Training in Water Rescue, Ernakulam. The session was about rescuing people from drowning by making floating devices from scrap material available at the time of a disaster. The hands-on training trained the participants to prepare life jackets using plastic bottles, and a few devices that will help to stay afloat in water. Different ways to tie knots were also introduced and the types of knots for various circumstances were also explained.



Fig.3. Session on Floating techniques by Mr. Suraj and team

Day 3 (27-02-2021)

The final day of the training program started with a first aid session. The session was conducted by Dr. Srikanth. D, Surgeon, General Hospital, Trivandrum. The hands-on training made the participants give a try on providing CPR, reviving an unconscious patient, choking baby etc. The session also passed information regarding various accidents such as snake bite, which is a frequent thing among forest department staff. The afternoon session was on the forest fire management practices which was handled by Mr. Nikhil S, Hazard Analyst (Forestry), KSDMA. The session was more of an interaction with the participants where they shared their experience and difficulties faced with fighting forest fire. Since the forest fire is occurring in remote forest areas with limited vehicle accessibility, the role of fire and rescue services is limited. The participants put forward suggestions to improve the forest fire management. The State Forest Fire Action Plan which is under preparation by KSDMA will

provide more insight into the forest fire management difficulties faced by the frontline forest department staff.

Feedback from participants

Feedback forms were collected from participants (Appendix-I). The major feedback was to include more practical sessions and on-hand trainings in the module. Some suggested the need of stress management sessions. The participants mentioned about the delay in payment of transfer allowance. Since the issue was not under the jurisdiction of SDMA, the issue was communicated with the forest department officials and they ensured they will investigate it.



Fig.4. Session on First aid by Dr. Srikanth. D

Concluding session

The concluding session was inaugurated by Smt. Neethu Lakshmi. M IFS, Conservator of Forests, HRD. She asked the participants their opinion about the whole training program and they responded that the training was highly effective. The participation certificates for the participants were distributed thereafter before the official conclusion of the three-day training program.

Consolidated feedback and rating of sessions and facilities from participants

Sl. No.	Particulars	Average Score (Out of 5)
1	Disaster Management Overview- Dr. Sreeja MU	2.76
2	Role of SDMA and Early Warnings - Mr. Fahad Marzook	3.00
3	Survival Skills - Mr. Ronu Mathew	3.19
4	Rescue Operations - Mr. D. Praveen	3.95
5	Floating techniques - Mr. Suraj and team	4.57
6	Basic Life Support and First aid - Dr. Srikanth	4.29
7	Forest fire management and interaction- Mr. Nikhil S	3.10
8	Food	4.19
9	Accommodation	3.62
10	Overall Coordination	3.57

Appendix - I
List of participants

Sl.No.	Name	Designation	Office
1.	Shri.K.V.Aji	Range Forest Officer	Social Forestry, Idukki
2.	Shri.Paul P Isak	Section Forest Officer	Social Forestry, Idukki
3.	Shri.Anish P.P	Section Forest Officer	Social Forestry, Idukki
4.	Shri.Viju Raghavan	Beat Forest Officer	Periyar East Division, Thekkady
5.	Shri.Govindh.R	Beat Forest Officer	Periyar East Division, Thekkady
6.	Shri.Sebasatian V.C	Section Forest Officer	Periyar West Division, Peerumade
7.	Shri.Manikkuttan K.B	Section Forest Officer	Periyar West Division, Peerumade
8.	Shri.Filson Philip	Beat Forest Officer	Periyar West Division, Peerumade
9.	Shri.Sibilmon E.B	Tribal Watcher	Periyar West Division, Peerumade
10.	Shri..Vijayakumar.S	Section Forest Officer	Wildlife Division, Idukki
11.	Shri.Arunkumar.S	Beat Forest Officer	Wildlife Division, Idukki
12.	Shri.Suraj.R	Beat Forest Officer	Wildlife Division, Idukki
13.	Shri.Jishan.S. Pararathazham	Beat Forest Officer	Wildlife Division, Idukki
14.	Shri.Raji Ragunathan	Section Forest Officer	Wildlife Division, Munnar
15.	Shri.Nitheesh Babu	Beat Forest Officer	Wildlife Division, Munnar
16.	Shri.Saneesh Jose	Beat Forest Officer	Wildlife Division, Munnar
17.	Shri.Jinson John	Beat Forest Officer	Divisional Forest Office, Nilambur North
18.	Shri.Balu. P	Beat Forest Officer	Divisional Forest Office, Nilambur North
19.	Shri. Manoj Kumr.K.	Beat Forest Officer	Divisional Forest Office, Nilambur North
20.	Shri.Muhammad Nishal	Range Forest Officer	Divisional Forest Office, Nilambur North

21.	Shri.Shivadasan.K.	Section Forest Officer	Divisional Forest Office, Nilambur North
22.	Shri.Lal V Nath	Section Forest Officer	Divisional Forest Office, Nilambur South
23.	Shri.S.Ameen Ahsan	Section Forest Officer	Divisional Forest Office, Nilambur South
24.	Shri.Jinesh K.P	Beat Forest Officer	Divisional Forest Office, Nilambur South
25.	Shri.N. Santhoshkumar	Beat Forest Officer	Divisional Forest Office, Nilambur South



Conservator of Forests (HRD)