

Awareness-cum Training Workshop on  
**Chemical Emergency : Preparedness & Response**  
Organized by  
**M. P. Pollution Control Board & Emergency Response Centre**

**A Note on the Proceedings of the Workshop**

The Emergency Response Centre, Bhopal under an "out-reach" program organized a one day awareness & training programme on "Chemical Emergency : Preparedness and Response" on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at the Conference hall of M/s. Bridgestone India (Private) Ltd, Sector-III, Pithampur, Dist. Dhar. The activity was aimed to create awareness about the Chemical emergency preparedness & response among the industry personnel, the different first responder groups (officials from Police, Fire brigade, district administration, Department of Industrial Health & Safety etc.) and also the people living in the vicinity of chemical industries.

After the floral welcome of the guests seated at the Dias, the program was formally inaugurated by Dr. N.P. Shukla, the Chairman, M.P. Pollution Control Board and Shri Ashok Kumar Chauhan, Additional Collector, Dhar by lighting the ceremonial lamp. This was followed by the welcome address from Shri Hemant Kumar Sharma, Regional Officer, M.P. Pollution Control Board, Dhar who, while wellcomming the guests and the participants, briefly highlighted the issues related to the chemical process plants in the Pithampur industrial area.

The opening remarks were made by Dr. Gunwant Joshi, Chief Chemist and Head of Emergency Response Centre, who highlighted the importance of preparedness in the chemical emergencies and also gave a brief introduction to the "Out reach" program of ERC

The chief guest of the function, Dr. N.P. Shukla under who's initiative and directions the activity was organized, said that the transparency, responsibility are the cornerstones of board's work culture as reflected in Board's recent initiatives such as implementation of "Narmada XGN" and "Out-reach" program of ERC. He asked the

industries to avail full benefits of these initiatives and share freely all their concerns with the Board. He said that the board officials are not just the regulators but also be considered as the partners in safeguarding the Environment and achieving the goal of Industrial development with "Responsible Care" concept. Dr Shukla said that ERC should take-up the issues of chemical safety and preparedness not only with its member industries and the first responders but also to the people living in the vicinity. He further stressed that the ERC team should be vigilant and must go to all its member industries in their respective location settings, have a feel of the area and try to address the issues relevant to maintaining high levels of preparedness to meet chemical emergencies so that better service may be rendered by ERC.

Shri Ashok Kumar Chauhan, who was the special guest of honour and presided the function, praised the initiative taken by the M.P. Pollution Control Board and stressed the importance of the preparedness in chemical industry. He asked the industry representatives and the various first responder agencies to make use of this opportunity provided by ERC and prepare themselves to deal with any eventuality or chemical emergency. He thanked the Chairman Dr Shukla, the Regional officer and the ERC team for taking initiative in organizing such an useful activity.

Shri Vallabh Kadia, Joint Director, Deptt. of Industrial Health & Safety, Indore shared with the audience the issues related to the onsite emergency plan and mock drills and thanked ERC for taking-up the out reach program. He further expressed that such programs shall help develop better coordination amongst the industry, the first responders, regulators and the technical support group, such as ERC, and appealed the industry representatives to make best use of this opportunity.

The Vote of Thanks was extended by Shri H. Wakamatsu, Director Technical, M/s. Bridgestone India (Private) Ltd, who appealed the audience to carry the message of safe practices in the chemical process and requested the industries to adopt the safe practices in their own industrial installations by implementing the lessons learnt at the workshop. He also praised the efforts of ERC, M.P. Pollution Control Board, Bhopal

in addressing such an important issue and assured full support to such activities. The inauguration function was conducted by Shri Manoj Jain wherein A total of 125 participants from various industries, District administration, the first responders and the regulators (MPPCB and DIHS) attended the program.

The technical program was divided in to two technical sessions, each comprising of two lectures followed by discussions. The resource persons were drawn from the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, NIC at Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi, Disaster Management Institute, Bhopal and Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization, Gol, Zonal office, Bhopal.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> technical session, Dr. Asit Patra, Assistant. Director, DMI, Bhopal stressed on the importance of On-site and off-site emergency plans and opined that the regular Mock drills are essential to ensure the high level of safety and preparedness in Chemical industries.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker of the session was Mr. Mukesh Titre, Controller, Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization, Bhopal who spoke about the safe handling, storage and use of petroleum products at the industrial locations. He also highlighted some of the common non-compliances by the industries in this regards and pointed out the possible damages it may result in to if an emergency or eventuality occurs.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> technical session, Shri H.V. Gurudutt of CPCB spoke on 'Manufacture, Storage & Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules 1989 and informed about status of import of hazardous chemicals in the country. He also talked about a couple of major accidents involving the chemicals and the monitoring activity of CPCB.

The final lecture of the technical session was by Shri Sanjay Gahlout, Dy. Director General at the National Informatics Centre, Ministry of Environment & Forest, New Delhi. Mr.Gahlout, in an extremely lucid manner, traced the development and application of information technology in the cause of accident prevention and mitigation. He told about how the GIS based software placed by the ministry on the

web is useful to quick and effective decision making. This is specially important as the response time is very critical in controlling the chemical accident & it's mitigation and immediate intervention can prevent the on site accident emergency turning in to an offsite event or a disaster. The main attraction of his presentation was the information database of the Dhar district from view point of accident mitigation put on the online web based GIS software platform. Although the data was of the year 2004, he very effectively used it to highlight the importance of the GIS technology and aroused the interest & the expectations of the industry & first responders alike. Further he gave the glimpses of the upcoming developments in the technology which may result in to better and effective response system in near future to help mitigate chemical emergencies.

Shri Gahlout's presentation was followed by comments by Dr. Gunwant Joshi, who underlined the capabilities and the database existing at the ERC and appealed the industries to make use of these facilities not only during the chemical emergencies but also for strengthening the capabilities and raising the level of preparedness by making & updating the On site emergency plans and carrying out the mock drills, so that the accidents are tackled effectively before turning in to disasters. He also appreciated the usefulness of the GIS technology and said that Mr. Gahlout's presentation has thrilled all of us at ERC and there is lot of enthusiasm and excitement about this technology. He also said that we realise that this software provides an access to the concerned authorities for the data updation, but as of now, this facility is not accessible to the ERC at the M.P. Pollution Control Board which is entrusted with the responsibility to give guidance and technical support in case of chemical emergencies.

Dr. Joshi felt that there is an urgent need for updating the database information and also to make it more user friendly which sure shall take place in coming future as there is an explosive enhancement in the field of technical capabilities and bandwidth availability. A project may be formulated to this end and could be executed by ERC in

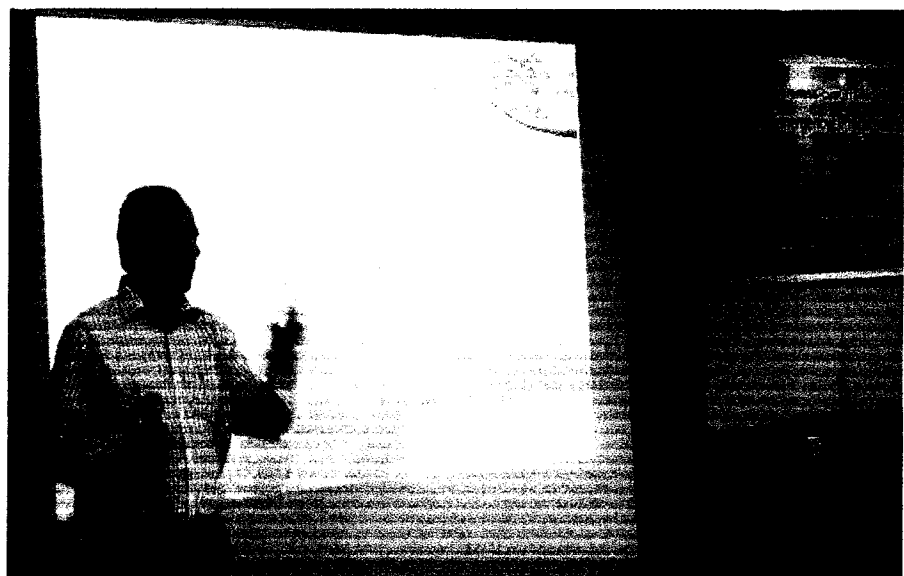
conjunction with the ministry with the technical support of NIC atleast for few intansely industrialised districts of Madhya Pradesh, so that it's useful to manage any chemical accident effectively and have a safe industrial growth in the region. We at ERC look foreward to participate in any such activity, he added.

The technical program was conducted by Dr. Rajendra Chaturvedi, Scientist at ERC and all the participants were awarded the certificate of participation. The programme was concluded by the vote of thanks to the Chair, the dignitaries and all the participants by Dr. D. K. Wagela, Senior Scientist at the Regional Laboratory of M.P. Pollution Control Board, Indore.



Honorable Chairman  
**Dr. N. P. Shukla**  
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Inaugural function

Shri Sanjay Gahlout  
Dy. Director General  
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Expert Lecture at the  
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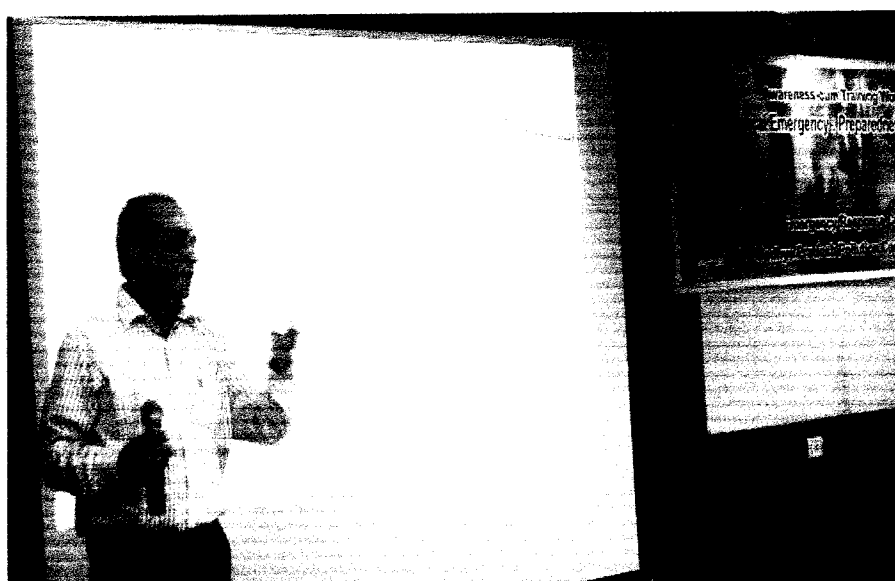
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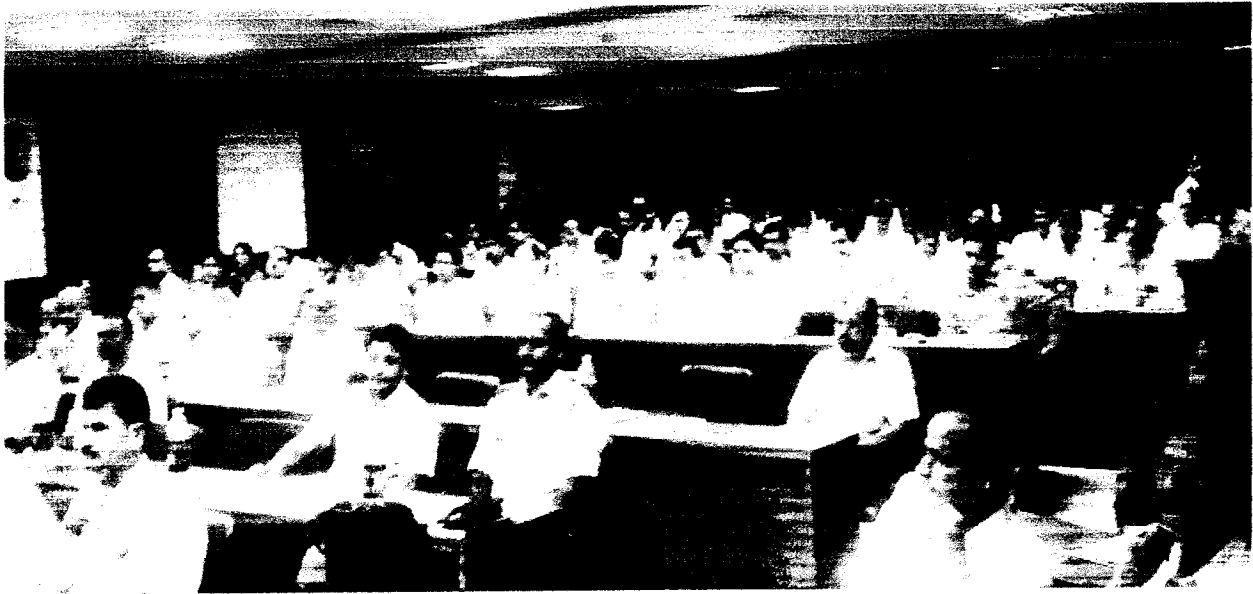
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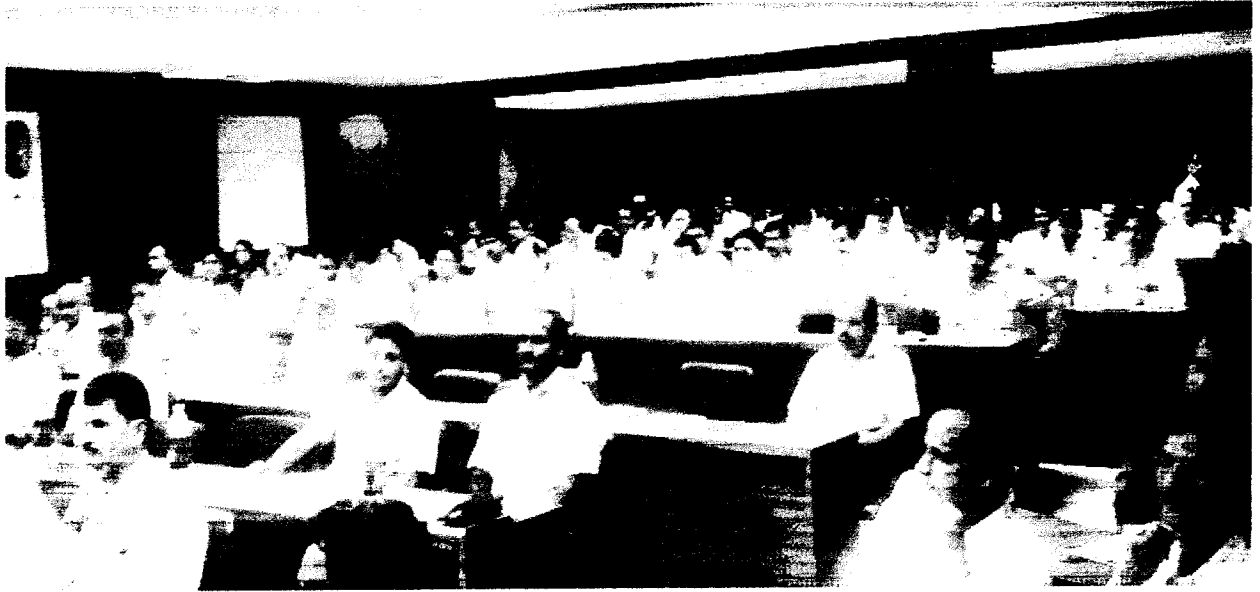




Audience engrossed in deliberations during the Technical Session



Active interaction during program's Technical Session



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Shri Sanjay Gahlout Dy. Director General (NIC) MoEF deliberating on GIS based software useful in decision making during emergency situations

