



Government of West Bengal Directorate of Forests

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force

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No. 202/2M-52

Dated:24-04-2018

The Chief Conservators of Forests (Central Circle) The Chief Conservators of Forests (South West Circle) The Chief Conservators of Forests (South East Circle) The Chief Conservators of Forests (Western Circle) The Chief Conservators of Forests (Northern Circle)

The Chief Conservators of Forests (Hill Circle) The Chief Conservators of Forests (Wild Life North Circle)

Sub: Advisory on regulation of movement of people inside the Forest Areas-Reg.

Ref: MoEF&CC F.No. 1-4/2018-FPD Dated 20-04-2018

Please find enclosed a copy of the communication received from, Shri Deepak Kumar Sinha, IGF (FPD), MoEF&CC, addressed to the Principal Secretary, Department of Forests, wherein appropriate measures have been desired from the States in respect of effective prevention and management of forest fires, in the aftermath of the unfortunate forest fire incident of Kurangai Hills, Theni Forest Division, Tamil Nadu on 11.03.2018.

Accordingly, you are advised to follow the advisory and take needful preventive and curative measures while implementing the same in the Divisions of your respective Circles. As the terrain in West Bengal varies for various Circle jurisdictions, it would be appreciated if measures for preventing forest fires are taken considering the local conditions/terrain and customs. The locals viz., FPCs, EDCs, Forest Villagers etc., may be involved for the purpose as far as possible as this would help in impeccable monitoring and preventive activities in respect of forest fire incidences.

Report on compliance of the instant advisory along with actions being taken at respective Divisions may be submitted to this office, so that the same can be compiled and communicated to MoEF&CC for the State of West Bengal.

This is for your kind information and needful at the earliest.

Encl: As above said.

(N K Pandey, IFS) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force, West Bengal

No. 202 12M-52

Dated: 24-04-2018

Copy forwarded for their kind information to:

1. The Managing Director, West Bengal Forest Development Corporation, West Bengal.

2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wild Life), West Bengal.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Research Monitoring & Development), West Bengal.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (General), West Bengal.

5. The Inspector General of Forests, FPD, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,

Head of Forest Force, West Bengal

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F.No.1-4/2018-FPD Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

(Forest Protection Division)

Agni Wing, 5th Floor Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bagh New Delhi - 110003 Dated: 20 April, 2018

To Principal Secretary Department of Forest Govt. of All States/UTs

Sub: Advisory on Regulation of movement of people inside the forest areas -regarding.

Sir/Madam.

Kindly refer to the forest fire incident that occurred in Kurangani hills, Theni Forest Division, Tamil Nadu on 11.03.2018, which led to the loss of valuable lives of many people and injuries to others which is highly unfortunate and State Governments must take appropriate preventive and curative measures.

In this regard, it is requested that necessary preventive measures may please be taken on priority basis to prevent recurrence of such incidences in future. Further, it is also requested to examine and put in place a suitable system to regulate the movement of people including organised trekking in forest areas, which may include the regulated entry into forest areas especially in forest fire seasons. State Governments should ensure adequate assistance and undertake safety measures for such activities. It is also informed that an Application vide No.539/2018 has been filed in the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi regarding the forest fire incident of Kurangani Hills, Theni Forest Division, Tamil Nadu on 11.03.2018.

It is informed that this Ministry is formulating a National Action Plan on Forest Fire which will be communicated soon for taking adequate safety measures for effective prevention and management of forest fire.

A timely action by the State Governments in this regard will be appreciated. You are requested to provide the action taken by the State Government to prevent recurrence of such incidences in future.

Yours faithfully

(Deepak Kumar Sinha)

Inspector General of Forests (FPD) e-mail: deepakkr.sinha@gov.in

Telephone: 011-24695336

Copy to:

1. Chief Secretary, Govt. of All States/UTs.

2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Govt. of All States/UTs.