

Fire in Navi Mumbai building: 'Regular mock drills led to no casualty'

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RESIDENTS of the Navi Mumbai highrise that caught fire on Wednesday night claim that a few mock drills and several notices about "how to deal with a fire" led to no casualties. The fire brigade, however, claims that the firefighting system installed in the building was flawed and that the "residents got lucky with the fire".

A major fire broke out on the 18th floor of Nerul's Seawoods Estate complex and was doused nearly five hours later.

"When the fire happened members of the society went knocking door to door and the watchmen also called. Everyone was making efforts to alert each other. Nobody used the lift and was instructed, warned and reminded to only use the staircase," said Kalim Sheikh, who resides on the fourth floor of the society.

According to the society manager, Ballabh Joshi, after all the recent fires in the various highrises in Mumbai, the building wanted to take measures to be safe, hence, regularly there were posters put up in the lobbies to create awareness. According to fire brigade officials, they had repeatedly instructed the residents to not use the staircase.

A senior official, however, believes that "the residents were lucky" since the fire took place on the top- most floor and not the intermediary floors.

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