

Firefighters struggle to douse flames at yarn factory

Firemen work continuously for over 12 hours without having food; fire tenders called from Khanna, Samrala as well



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A major fire broke out at a yarn waste recycling unit on the Chandigarh Road today. Stock worth several lakhs is reported to have been gutted in the incident.

Short circuit was reported to be the cause of fire, which broke-out at 12 pm. The department had to call fire tenders from Khanna and Samrala to control the fire. Firefighters and officials from the department said it would take more than 12 hours to control the fire.

Hardeep Singh, a passerby, reported the matter to the Fire Department at 12 pm. He said the fire spread all over within minutes at Hem Raj Traders, adding that by the time the fire tenders could reach, thick smoke had engulfed the entire area, as a result, residents, passersby and labourers from other factories gathered at the site.

After reaching the spot, the Fire Department staff realised that fire tenders from other stations would be needed as the flames had gutted the yarn waste, which was to be recycled.

The firefighters had a tough time getting inside and ultimately had to break one of the walls of the factory to enter as the fire had spread deep inside. One of the firefighters said a staff of over 25 persons was struggling to douse the flames. However, till the filing of this report, the fire was still not under control.

Latest fire-fighting equipment needed

Fire incidents are a reoccurring thing in Ludhiana, but the state government it seems is in deep slumber as far as providing latest fire-fighting equipment to the department is concerned. Though tenders to buy new equipment, providing state-of-the-art infrastructure to the Fire Department in Punjab have been floated, these have not been opened by authorities in Chandigarh, reasons best known to

Short circuit, the reason; stocks gutted

- Firefighters said stocks worth several lakhs of rupees were gutted in the incident. The fire broke out due to short circuit. "We are still struggling as the fire is simmering at several places under the stock. We have to make sure it does not spread again. The ceiling of factory has been damaged and the machinery and stocks, too, have been gutted," a firefighter said.

Wall broken to enter godown

- Sub-Fire Officer Rajinder Kumar Sharma said after struggling for over 5-6 hours, firefighters finally entered the godown, where huge stocks of yarn were kept. "The entire area was engulfed in flames and it was suffocating. Some of the firefighters

them. In the absence of the staff, equipment and with obsolete firefighters, the department is finding it difficult to live up to the expectations of the masses



Firemen at work at the yarn-waste recycling unit which caught fire in Ludhiana on Tuesday. Tribune Photos: Himanshu Mahajan

faced uneasiness, too. We hope to control the fire soon," Sharma said.

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