

## MENU

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# Helipads in high rises to fight fires?

— By FPJ Bureau, *July 26, 2014 02:14 am*



Mumbai : The urban development department of Maharashtra government is in the process of drafting a proposal that recommends compulsory construction of helipads on top of high rises — buildings that are 150-200 metres high -- to facilitate use of choppers in case of fire emergencies. Recently, a Coast Guard chopper was successfully deployed for rescue work in the Lotus Park fire.

MV Deshmukh, director, Maharashtra Fire Service, disclosed this at a meet organised by the members of Fire Protection Association of India, where they discussed the need for new standards in fire protection regulations.



The Urban Development department had sought suggestions from the Maharashtra Fire Service on its proposal for construction of helipads in high rises.

"We are in the process of preparing a report on this and will be submitting it to the UD department in the next 15 to 20 days,"

said Deshmukh. If the Maharashtra government approves the proposal, it will be implemented across Maharashtra.

Deshmukh admitted that unionization in the Mumbai Fire Brigade is one of the issues that is hampering proper functioning of the department and that they were examining how this factor could be minimized.

Deshmukh stressed on the need for people to be more aware of the fire safety Act. They were also carrying out random inspections to check on fire equipment installed in buildings. So far they had carried out such inspections in 53,000 buildings.