

Office furniture gutted in fire at Pune railway station

TNN | Nov 2, 2014, 12.46AM IST

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PUNE: Office furniture was destroyed in a major fire that broke out on the first floor of the main building of the Pune railway station around 6.30 pm on Saturday. However, no one was injured in the blaze. Seven fire tenders were rushed to the station to douse the flames soon after the fire brigaded was sent an alert. Officials from the fire brigade department said the reason behind the fire was yet to be ascertained.

An officer from the department said, "The fire largely spread through the false ceiling of a couple of rooms. People present in the building and on the premises of the station saw dense smoke billowing from the first floor and informed the fire brigade." It took at least two hours to put off the fire, the officer added.

The sudden fire and thick smoke in the station premises

created panic among passengers on platform number one, which is adjacent to the main building. Railway authorities controlled the movement of passengers and the platform was cordoned off as a precautionary measure. People were moved away from the platform area to a safe place.

An official from the railway administration said the fire broke out on the first floor where the dormitory and the movement control office are located. The office of the government railway police is located on the ground floor. The fire did not reach the ground floor and hardly any staff members were present on the first floor when the fire broke out.

Following the fire, the Pune-Patna Express, which departs from platform number one, was shifted to platform number three. The train departed late by one hour than its scheduled time. There was no cancellation of trains. Railway authorities have ordered an inquiry into the fire.