

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAILWAY BOARD

No.97/Sec.(Spl)/200/38

New Delhi, Dated 31.07.1997.

STANDING ORDER No. 34

All the Chief Security Commissioners/RPF.

Sub: Role of RPF in the event of Railway Accidents and other calamities

While visiting one of the Railway accident sites, it was felt that RPF were not well organised to handle emergency situations. They are, to some extent, confused about the role they have to play in the event of Railway accidents or incidents causing huge loss and damage to Railway property and injury to passengers in cases of sabotage or natural calamities. Since these are extraordinary situations, utmost confusion and chaos prevails at the scenes of accidents / incidents adding to the agony of injured persons and serious delays in rescue and restoration operations. RPF would normally be the first uniformed Force to arrive at the scene of accident, and, therefore, they have to play a very important role.

2. First response: First information about any calamity involving Railway trains or Railway premises, will normally be received by the nearest RPF Post / Outpost. The person receiving such information should muster the **maximum available manpower within the shortest possible time** and despatch them to the scene of accident by the **quickest means**. After despatching the immediately available force, the Post / Outpost incharge should requisition additional manpower. He should also simultaneously pass on the information to the senior supervisory officers and the Control Rooms at

3. Reinforcement: Effort will be made to get the reinforcement from the neighbouring Posts / Outposts, Reserve Line, Divisional Headquarters or Zonal Reserve. In case any RPSF battalion or Company is located in the vicinity, men can be requisitioned from there for dealing with such emergent situations till additional force is available from other sources.

4. Equipment: While sending reinforcement, it should be ensured that the necessary equipment required for rescue, recovery and protection of the scene of incident are provided. Such equipment should include:

- (i) Torches and other lighting arrangements, if it is night time
- (ii) Nylon ropes and poles for segregating the affected area from unwanted visitors and spectators
- (iii) Loud-hailer for making announcements
- (iv) Stretchers and first aid equipment
- (v) Wireless sets for inter-communication
- (vi) Cameras for photographing the scene (both on negative and slide films)
- (vii) Video recording of rescue and salvage operations and connected administrative arrangements

Note : S.Nos. (vi) and (vii) will be useful for departmental presentations and for training of RPF personnel.

5. Action at the scene of incident: The senior most RPF Officer available at the scene of incident will assume control and immediately start the following action :

- (a) Segregate the area of incident by establishing temporary barriers by use of nylon ropes or any other make-shift device available at the scene. It should be ensured that the on-lookers and spectators do not enter the affected area to disturb the scene or hamper the rescue operations.

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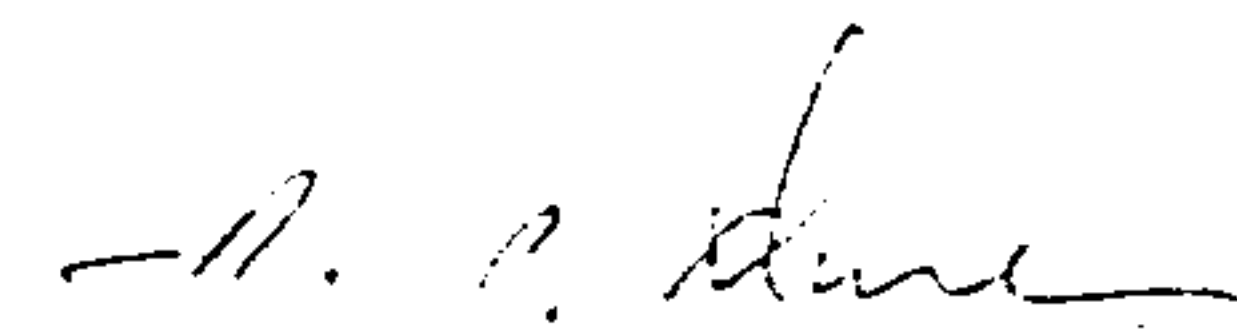
- (b) Baggage of passengers should be isolated and protected and consigned goods should be taken care of till they are handed over to claimants or taken over by railway authorities.
- (c) RPF personnel should respond to any call for assistance to rescue victims and transport them to the nearest hospital. A record of casualties sent to hospitals should be maintained.

Note : RPF officers will maintain close liaison and harmony with the officers of various departments of the Railways, the GRP, Local Police and Officers of Civil Administration while attending to (a), (b) and (c) above.

- (d) Hourly Sitreps will be sent by the officer at the scene of incident to the Divisional / Zonal Control Room giving the latest situation.
- (e) A temporary RPF ASSISTANCE POST (shed or tent) with proper Board should be established at a conspicuous location so that people needing help could approach the RPF. If the operation continues for a longer period, effort should be made to install a temporary telephone connection through the Railway Telecom Department, so that the information is passed on quickly. A Log Book should be opened and minute-to-minute progress of action by RPF on the lines indicated above, recorded.
- (f) The senior most officer available at the scene of incident will also ensure proper documentation about the number of persons injured or dead, giving their identity and addresses, if available. In case any queries are made by the friends or relatives of the injured / deceased they should be properly guided. After the rescue / restoration operation is complete, a

cassettes and photographs of the scene of incident will be retained by the CSC in his office and will be properly catalogued and preserved for future reference.

6. The Hindi version of the Standing Order will follow. The SO should be got translated into the regional languages and supplied to the Posts / Outposts for display on the Notice Boards. The RPF personnel should also be briefed on the contents of this SO during Roll Call / Parades.



(A.P. DURAI) 1.8.97
DG/RPF

Copy to :

All GMs, Indian Railways
Principal JJR/RPF Academy, Lucknow
Principal RPF Zonal Training Centres
All DSCs