

Celebration of National Safety Week, 2023 at AERB

Every year National Safety Week, with a specific theme, is celebrated in India during 4th-10th March, to commemorate foundation of National Safety Council in the year 1966 and to raise awareness among the people about safety measures and prevent misfortunes. The theme for this year's National Safety Week is "Our Aim – Zero Harm". This year, on the occasion of the National Safety Week, AERB had organized a programme on March 09, 2023 (Thursday).

During the programme, an inspection of AERB Office premises i.e. Niyamak Bhavan-A, B & C was conducted during forenoon, by a team of AERB officials, for workplace hazards, cleanliness for safety and preparedness as per the AERB Disaster Management Plan. Later an invited talk by Shri Ashok Raichur, Former Dy. General Manager, Safety Health & Environment, HPCL-CO and Former Technical Advisor to NSC was organized on the topic "Accident investigation, Root Cause Analysis Techniques and experience sharing".

Shri A. P. Garg, Director, NFRG, AERB highlighted the significance of the National Safety Week in raising awareness about safety and health in our daily life. He expressed that occupational safety is critical in India because it protects workers from harm, increases productivity, lowers healthcare costs, increases regulatory compliance, and boosts employee morale. From the statistical graphs, he pointed to the large difference in number of fatal/ non-fatal accidents that have occurred in industries during 2011-2020 and decadal trend of road accidents involving deaths and injuries. He stated that while in industries, dedicated sections/ departments are available to ensure adherence to safety requirements by employees, adherence to road safety requirements is everyone's responsibility.

Shri S. B. Chafle, Executive Director, AERB, in his address stated that we should observe the occasion of National Safety Week as a reminder about our responsibility towards safety. He expressed that identification of visible, hidden/ latent, root-contributory causes of the events is important to either eliminate or reduce the risk of recurrence of the event i.e. realize zero harm target, which is the theme for this year's National Safety Week. He also briefly elaborated various types of accident investigation techniques/ modules.

Shri Ashok Raichur, in his address, elaborated the evolution of accident investigation techniques right from their origin to the new advancements in the present era. He also described the basic steps of accident investigation which include, initial response to the accident, collecting information/ evidences of the accident, analysis the data and determining the causes, determining/ initiating actions through a report and follow-up of implementation of recommendations. The techniques described by Shri Raichur, include Dominos theory, 5 Why theory, Fault Tree Analysis etc. He also shared his experiences of accidents in industries and their outcome.

Shri Dinesh Kumar Shukla, Chairman, AERB reiterated that National Safety Week should be observed, rather than celebrated, as a reminder of our responsibilities in ensuring safety at our workplace. He desired that everyone's should own this responsibility voluntarily. He stated

that the accident investigation techniques such as human, organization and technical (HOT) factors, 5 Whys described in the invited talk are already being practiced at AERB during review of events, but need further strengthening. He expressed that identification of root cause of an event is significant in defining the remedial actions so that recurrence of the event can be avoided. He also briefly elaborated the A (Antecedent), B (Behaviour), C (Consequence) theory of unsafe human behavior. He stated that antecedent triggers a resultant behavior which is further emboldened by the favourable consequences i.e. when a worker deviates from a safety requirement (antecedent), which he thinks favourable for himself (behavior), it becomes his habit due to favourable outcome (consequence) of his act. Some of the glimpses of the programme are as follows:



Shri Dinesh Kumar Shukla, Chairman, AERB delivering his remarks



Shri Ashok Raichur, Former DGM, SH&E, HPCL and Former Technical Advisor, NSC delivering the invited talk



AERB Team inspecting AERB office premises i.e. Niyamak Bhavan - A, B and C buildings