

An emergency meeting of the Dock Safety Committee of Mormugao Port Trust was conveyed by Chairman/ MPT on 24/01/2018 with the officials of ZACL to take stock of the situation post the accident of the ammonia tanker and review the cause, mitigation measure and the preventive action plan taken by ZACL..

It was informed by ZACL that they received a call from their Ammonia terminal at jetty, Mormugoa at around 0245 hrs on 19/01/2018 and immediately the emergency management team, as per ZACL Disaster Management Plan, reached the site along with Fire tender and crew, Maintenance team with required Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs), Tools and tackles etc. at around 0255 hrs and started mitigating the emergency, which included evacuation of the local residents to safe locations, spraying of water to contain the spread of leaked ammonia. ZACL were assisted by the Goa State Fire Services, MPT Fire Brigade and Ambulances. Simultaneously, crane was mobilized from ZACL for lifting the tanker. The leakage was brought under control at around 0350 hrs and ZACL Technical Team and Director of Goa Fire Services approached the tanker with the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) to identify the leak. The tanker was positioned on its tyres at 0920 hrs and driven away with escort vehicle at 11.15 hrs and reached ZACL factory at 1210 hrs.

It was confirmed by ZACL officials that by 0430 hrs the PPM levels of ammonia at the site of the incident was brought down to 25 PPM.

Later at the site of accident, soil remediation was carried by ZACL technical team under the guidance of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Board (SPCB). Subsequently as a precautionary measure, ZACL technical team carried out inspection and Non Destructive Test (NDT) on remaining five ammonia tankers used for transportation of ammonia and two tankers have since been taken out of service till detail analysis of the tankers are carried out.

The officials of ZACL informed that all the ammonia tankers are inspected and tested for their integrity, every year by the competent agency approved by the Chief Controller of Explosives, Nagpur and at the time of the incident, the certificates of all the six tankers plying were valid.

Chairman, MPT while taking note of the incident stressed that it was bounden duty of all the Port users to remain vigilant in ensuring compliance of all the safety and statutory norms while transporting any cargo to and from the Port. The Chairman also emphasized that compromise with the basic tenets of safety could lead to disastrous consequences and could prove fatal to human life and the very existence of a business enterprise.

The officials conveyed that they will submit a detailed report along with all the relevant test certificates and the detailed preventive action plan to avoid the recurrence of such incident in future.

