

PRESS NOTE

Narrow Escape Near Theur Phata After Chemical Leak From Stuck Tanker; PMRDA Fire Personnel Avert Major Disaster!

PUNE: A major tragedy was averted on the Pune-Solapur highway on Wednesday morning after a tanker carrying highly inflammable Monomethylamine (MMA) gas became stuck in soft mud, triggering a chemical leak near Theur Phata. Prompt intervention by the Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA) Fire Department helped contain the situation before toxic fumes could lead to a catastrophic fire or health hazard.

The incident occurred around 10:40 am when the Pune-bound tanker, traveling from Solapur, veered off the road. According to officials, the driver lost control of the vehicle, causing it to sink into the soft soil alongside the highway. The impact resulted in a leak from the tanker's main valve, releasing 40% concentrated Monomethylamine—a hazardous and combustible chemical—into the air. As the pungent, suffocating odor of the gas spread across the vicinity, panic gripped local residents and commuters. Traffic on the busy highway briefly slowed as onlookers feared an explosion.

Upon receiving the alert, a team from the Wagholi Fire Station rushed to the scene. Recognizing the volatile nature of the chemical, firefighters initiated technical measures to plug the leak immediately.

"The situation was critical due to the hazardous nature of the gas," said Devendra Potphode, Chief Fire Officer, PMRDA. "Our team reached the spot within minutes. Thanks to the timely intervention by our jawans, a potential disaster was successfully thwarted."

Once the leak was stabilized, a heavy-duty Hydra crane was deployed to carefully extract the massive tanker from the mud. Fire officials maintained a high state of alert throughout the recovery process to ensure no further sparks or leaks occurred.

The coordinated effort ensured that highway traffic, which had been partially affected, returned to normalcy shortly after the tanker was secured.

To, The Hon. Editor/Representative,

We kindly request you to publish the above news/press release in your esteemed daily newspaper, news channel, and digital media platforms.

Purushottam Sangle

Information and Public Relations Officer, PMRDA, Pune.