

Chapter -VIII
EMERGENCY SALVAGE SERVICE

Due to large scale destruction post Disasters, many houses might be destroyed or damaged simultaneously burying large quantities of valuable property under the debris and the owners may themselves become casualties or may run away out of fear. If these properties are left unsecured, they would either be stolen or destroyed by exposure. It would be impossible for the police to take charge of these properties, remove them to a safe place and keep them in custody until the appearance of the rightful owner. The police will not be able to handle the enormous task of salvaging and keeping custody of the property due to its engagements in other security duties as well. Hence it will be necessary to have a separate emergency service which may be called the Salvage service and which would be responsible for salvaging properties from houses destroyed or damaged by devastating events and preserve such properties and their eventual disposal or return to the owners.

Therefore, a suitable organization in every town under a responsible officer to organize salvage operations through the local Public Works Department. The arrangements for salvaged property should include :

- Designation of an appropriate officers who may be called the Custodian.
- Provision and identification of suitable places to serve as Godowns / Warehouses for storing and guarding the salvaged property till the owners can be traced.
- Protection of property against exposure to rain and weather.
- Maintenance of proper records / accounts.

Organization

The Salvage Service Organization will consist of the following:

- Custodian - One upto 6 lakh population.
- Assistant Custodian - One per additional 6 lakh population
- Warehouse/ Godown - One upto 6 lakh and one extra for every additional 6 lakh population.
 - Godown Incharge - 1
 - Attendant - 1
 - Clerk - 1
 - Watchman - 1
- Salvage Team - One per two lakh population.
 - Supervisor - 1
 - Volunteer Members - 4
 - Driver - 1

Each Salvage party will be accompanied with a magistrates and police escort. On reaching the damage site they should secure the area with assistance of the police and conduct operations in the presence of the magistrate.

Legal Provisions

State governments may appoint officers entrusted with the task of salvage and custody of salvaged goods. The central or state government may by general or special order provide :-

- for the clearing of any premises which in consequence of enemy action accident or otherwise are substantially damaged;
- for the protection of articles or things left upon such premises as aforesaid.
- for the removal, custody, disposal or restoration to owners of any such articles or things as aforesaid including the disinfection or destruction of articles or things which may be a source of danger to public health or safety.

The salvaged property will generally fall under two broad categories

1.Perishable	May be disposed of and the amount realized may be held by the custodian on the owner's account. If there are any useful perishables such as food grains, etc. they may be handed over to the Rationing Authorities and suitable compensation paid to the owners.
2.Non-perishable	The building material may be entrusted to P.W.D authorities and suitable compensation paid to the owners. Other property may remain with the Custodian unless the owners are present to claim the property. If any valuables like ornaments gold, silver, bank notes or other documents of value are found arrangements must be made so that they are sent by the custodian to Government Treasuries or Banks for safe custody

During Salvage operations, an inventory of salvaged property should be prepared on the spot by the salvage supervisor in accordance with the procedure laid down by law and a copy furnished to the Civil Defence Controller immediately. Valuables should be listed in the presence of a magistrate and care must be taken to guard against any mishandling or loss to salvaged property.

Annexure-I (Chapter –VIII)

EQUIPMENT FOR EMERGENCY SALVAGE SERVICE

S.No.	ITEMS	QUANTITY
Personal Equipment		
1.	Salvage Team Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiber Glass Helmet (grey colour) • Overall • Gum Boots • Web Belt • Water Bottle • Bobbin Line(25 ft) 	 1 1 1 pair 1 1 1
2.	Custodian and Salvage Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiber Glass Helmet (grey colour) • Rechargeable Electric Torch • Whistle with lineyard. • Water Bottle 	 1 1 1 1
3.	Godown In-charge - Fiber Glass Helmet (grey colour)	1
4.	Watchman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiber Glass Helmet (grey colour) • Rechargeable Electric Torch • Whistle with lineyard. • Water Bottle 	 1 1 1 1
Emergency Salvage Service Team Equipment		
1.	Baskets Metallic	8
2.	Spade with handle	4
3.	Ladder Aluminum (10ft / 12 ft)	1
4.	50 ft. BOB Nylon Rope (6mm & 8mm)	4
5.	Jute Strings	5 Kg.
6.	Gunny Bags with sand	2 doz.
7.	Re-chargeable Electric Torch	4
8.	Crow Bar 5 ½ ft	1
9.	Pick Axe with handle	3
10.	2Kg Axe with handle	2
11.	Hands saw cutting edge with handle(55cm)	2
12.	Sledge Hammer (3.5 kg)	2
13.	Plastic Tarpaulin sheets (18 x 18 ft)	6
14.	Standard Ceiling hook	2
15.	Dollies (1.5 mtr)	4
16.	Hydraulic Jacks	2
17.	Pneumatic Jacks with compressed air cylinder	2
18.	Five Forked Drag hook with 1.5 mtr handle	2
19.	Iron Shod lever(1.5 mtr long)	2
20.	Telescopic stanchion	4
21.	Rubber Gloves tested for 25,000 volts	5 pairs
22.	Asbestos Gloves	2 pairs
23.	Metal Trays (2 ft x 4 ft x 6 ft)	6

