

The Maharashtra Forest (Protection  
of Forests from Fire) Rules, 1982.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA,  
Revenue & Forests Department,  
Resolution No. MSC/1074/252389-F6,  
Mantralaya, Bombay- 4000 32  
Dated the 14th October 1982.

RESOLUTION

PRELIMINARY

At present there is no uniform set of rules governing the protection of forests from fire in the three constituent regions, viz. Western Maharashtra, Marathwada and Vidarbha in the State. In Western Maharashtra region, the relevant provisions are Rules 3 to 7, of Chapter II of the Bombay Forest Rules, 1942. In the Marathwada region, no separate rules exist except the provisions outlined in the respective working plans. Protection of forests from fire in the comparatively more valuable forests in the Vidarbha region is governed by the provisions in paras 86 to 88 of the erstwhile Central Provinces and Berar Forest Manual, Vol. I

The need for uniformity in rules.

2. The need for uniformity in respect of these rules is thus self-evident, considering the importance of preserving the forests inviolate from fire-hazards. Fires, if uncontrolled, can have a devastating effect not only on mature forest stands, but can also be ruinous even to the areas under regeneration, both natural as well as artificial. Apart from loss of valuable timber, recurrent and widespread fires have a pernicious effect on ecology, environment and wildlife habitat, and cause irreparable damage. Fires can be either accidental or even deliberate, motivated by superstition or ulterior reason

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It is, therefore, imperative to frame a unified set of rules with a view to ensuring effective protection of our forests from fire and incendiarism throughout the State. This matter acquires particular importance in view of the plantation and afforestation programmes undertaken on an extensive scale in the State of late and of the need to protect jealously vast areas under pasture, those existing and those proposed to be enlarged and developed through afforestation and other special schemes. It is with this object in view, that a new set of unified rules for the entire State of Maharashtra has been prescribed.

4. Accordingly, Government is now pleased to direct that these rules designated as the Maharashtra Forest (Protection of Forests from Fire) Rules, 1952 (appended to this Government Resolution of even number, dated 14th October 1952, by notified and published in Part IV-D of the Extraordinary Gazette dtw: 14th October 1952 of the Maharashtra Government). The

Conservators of Forests and the Divisional Forest Officers and Sub-Divisional Forest Officers, in charge of Independent, Sub-Divisions, are requested to give wide publicity to these rules for the information and guidance of the general public.

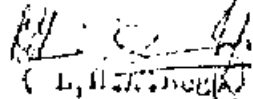
5. The Director of Languages, Bombay should arrange to translate the above rules into Marathi and send the translation thereof, at the earliest, to the Manager, Government Central Press, Bombay, for publication in the Maharashtra Government Gazette immediately.

6. The Director General Information and Public Relations, Bombay, should give wide publicity to these rules, at the earliest through a suitable press note.

7. The Manager, Government Central Press, Bombay should supply 200 copies of the above notification to

This department. He should also supply specified number of copies of the said notification to each of the Officers/ Departments as indicated below:-

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra,

  
( L. H. Hegde )

Deputy Secretary to Government

accompaniments-as above.

To

- The Secretary to the Governor of Maharashtra.
- All (Divisional Commissioners ( 5 copies each )
- The Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra State, Pune ( 10 copies )
- The Chief Conservator of Forests (Special) Maharashtra State, Pune ( 10 copies ).
- The Additional Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra State, Pune. ( 10 copies )
- All Conservators of Forests, Forest Department ( 10 copies each );
- All Divisional Forest Officers and Sub-Divisional Forest Officers in charge of Independent Forest Sub-divisions ( 20 copies each );
- The Managing Director, Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd. Nagpur ( 10 copies )
- All Regional Managers, Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd. Nagpur, ( 10 copies each )
- All Divisional Managers Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd. Nagpur ( 20 copies each )
- The Director Social Forestry, Maharashtra State, Pune
- All Conservators of Forests & Social Forestry ( 10 copies each )
- All Divisional Forest Officers, Social Forestry ( 20 copies each )
- All Collectors of Districts including Additional Collector, BSD. ( 10 copies each )
- All Chief Executive Officers, Panchayat Samitis ( 10 copies each )
- The Director General Information and Public Relations, Maharashtra, Bombay ( For issue of a Press note )

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