

## A DASTOOR WHO TENDS ANOTHER KIND OF FIRE

Mehernosh F. Dastoor, son of Fali Dastoor the former Chief Fire Officer of Ahmedabad continues the family tradition of Fire fighting.

At 42 years he is already the Deputy Chief Fire Officer of the Fire & Emergency Services and the only certified International trainer in India, in the SAVER methodology.

He passed out from the Nagpur National Fire Service College with honours and all other officers' courses with the same distinction. He has received many state and central government medals and awards for bravery and meritorious services.



The Earthquake of 2001 in Gujarat was a turning point for his career. Having worked round the clock and having saved hundreds of trapped people with the meagre means available to them. Leaving his own family behind in these terror filled days, he was gone for days busy rescuing others.

Being a fireman in India is not an easy job. You have practically no tools available to you. You are called in for any kind of emergency or security purpose. The general public does not have any value for the risk you put your life in on their behalf. Even the basic training that they undergo does not prepare them for the kind of emergencies that may arise. Especially, in an area and city like Ahmedabad with its chemical factories and surrounding refineries.

Soon after the earthquake many foreign countries and donors realised the plight of the fire services and offered to help. Cordaid a Dutch NGO offered funds to a Dutch agency namely ICET (International Centre for Emergency Techniques) to train and equip the Ahmedabad Fire Department.

A selection of the men was made; Mehernosh Dastoor played an important role in coordinating this whole process with help from The Netherlands Business Support Office in Ahmedabad.

24 men from the Ahmedabad Fire Brigade were trained in the Netherlands and Germany along with some colleagues from other Gujarati cities, some doctors and traffic police men. 11 of these men certified as trainers and passed on their skills to their colleagues on

their return. Of these 11, Mehernosh was the only one to certify internationally.

## City fire officer gets international award

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Ahmedabad:** In a rare felicitation here on Tuesday, Mehernosh Dastoor, who is a divisional fire officer with the Ahmedabad fire and emergency services, was awarded the Registered International Saver Instructor Certificate by Holland's Saver Foundation. Dastoor is the only officer in the country to have bagged this distinction.



**Mehernoosh Dastoor**

Dastoor has also been awarded the President's Award for his services during the earthquake, that had struck the state in year 2002, and the post-Godhra communal riots. Earlier, the Saver Foundation had chosen 49 members who were trained in the Netherlands and Dastoor was one of them.

Dastoor earned the certificate after putting up a good show during the training.

Times of India 26<sup>th</sup> May 2004

Today after having received this training the local firemen can be compared to any in the world. They are not only well trained but well equipped and know how to use and operate each and every tool available. Their trainer Charles McClung claims that the Ahmedabad fire brigade is more efficient than New York<sup>1</sup>.



The 11 trainers

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<sup>1</sup> Divya Bhaskar 7<sup>th</sup> July 2003.



Rescue operation in Navsari after the floods of 2004



Sabarmati Express, Samlaya 40 kms. outside of Baroda