

Dombivli chemical factory explosion kills worker

3 suffer burn injuries; firemen blame old distillation unit for mishap

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A worker was charred to death and three others sustained serious burn injuries after an explosion took place at a chemical factory in MIDC, Dombivli (East) on Monday morning. The blast took place in the distillation unit of Chemstar company of the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) estate at Manpada in Dombivli at around 6am.

"There were four-five workers in the dye factory when the incident took place," says a police officer from Manpada police station. The blast took place due to some problem in the distillation unit and five fire brigade vehicles were pressed into service to douse the blaze.

"The unit was not maintained properly," the officer said.

The deceased has been identified as Pramod Gopal Garad. The injured have been identified as Subhash Nankuram, Kashinath Rajvanshi and Battu Vankede.

"While Nankuram and Rajvanshi are treated at Dombivli, Vankede has been shifted to Sion hospital for burn injuries," he said.

The police have registered a case against Chemstar under Section 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter), 287 (negligent conduct with respect to machinery), 304 (a) (causing death by negligence) and 336 (endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

"We have registered a case against the owners of the company and investigations are on. We have not arrested anyone yet," the officer said.

This was the second such incident in MIDC area in the past seven months.

On October 30, 2013, Nerchem Industries, a chemical company at at Phase II of MIDC, Dombivli caught fire. Thankfully, there were no workers in the company when the incident took place.

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