

## **Hotels and Restaurants to conduct safety audit after Kamala Mills tragedy**

Following the Kamala Mills tragedy, hotels and restaurants across the city will soon conduct fire safety audit on their premises. Both the Indian Hotels and Restaurant Association (AHAR) and Hotel & Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI) issued a circular, asking their members to carry out the audit at the earliest.

The HRAWI has warned its members that their membership will not be renewed if they don't comply with safety norms. "We are selecting 2-3 third-party agencies who will visit the premises of our members and certify the premises. We will not renew memberships of hotels who are not safety compliant," said Dilip Datwani, president, HRAWI.

AHAR has issued basic guidelines to be followed such as preventing blocking of common passages, entry and exits, fire escapes and other such passages, stocking hazardous materials carefully and refilling fire-fighting material in time. The AHAR office-bearers who met municipal commissioner Ajoy Mehta assured him that the hoteliers would comply with all the rules.

According to the fire brigade report, the blaze started on the premises of Mojo Bistro and spread towards 1Above resto bar in Kamala Mills. The fire spread because of the common roof shelter made of combustive material. In addition, there were no emergency fire exits, while the entrances were too narrow.