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Saat Rasta building gets hi-tech fire escape chute

Pratibha Masand | TNN

Mumbai: The residents of Planet Godrej, a 45-storeyed residential tower at Saat Rasta, do not need to worry in case of fire or other life-threatening emergencies as a fire escape chute, an emergency exit that allows mass evacuation from high-rise structures during emergencies, has been installed there.

These chutes can evacuate 30 people per minute. They can slide down from 45 storeys to the ground floor in 100 seconds. The access to the chute is available from every alternate floor. "It is suitable for people of all ages and physical conditions, including toddlers and senior citizens. Plus, it is very easy to use. Even though it looks intimidating, once we complete the drill, residents will find it quite easy to use," said chief fire officer P D Karguppikar. Though the residents are not being charged for the chute, Godrej Properties have paid around Rs 1.5 to Rs 1.8 lakh per floor.

The chute comprises three layers of cloth which is strong, fire resistant (upto 750 degree Celsius) and elastic to allow the evacuees to control their speed of descent. As it is made



Pics: Sanjay Hacker



of cloth, the user can breathe easily through it.

The users only have to only sit on the edge of the entry hatch with legs hanging into

EASY WAY OUT: These chutes can evacuate 30 people per minute. They can slide down from 45 storeys to the ground floor in 100 seconds

the chute. They must grip the upper portion of the chute and then slowly ease themselves into it. People can control the rate of descent by pressing against the side of the chute. A person at the bottom will help the user to exit the chute.

"You only need to know the proper technique," said one of the security guards of the building.