



**Hong Kong Fire Services Department**

***Serving with Courage,  
Passion and Commitment***

# **2019 Year-end Review Highlights**



# 2019 Year-end Review Highlights

## Firefighting and Rescue

### Fire Calls

- 37,606 in total (an increase of 12.4% as against Year 2018)

### No. 3 or Above Alarm Fires

- 7 in total (same as Year 2018)

### Building Fire Calls

- 31,499 in total (an increase of 9.5% as against Year 2018)
- 93.3 % responded within the graded response time (performance pledge: 92.5%)

### Firefighting Operations

- Notable incident: In the oil tanker fire near Lamma Island, the FSD resorted to the professional rescue skills of the High Angle Rescue Team and Diving Unit to conduct firefighting, search and rescue operations, which lasted more than seven days.

### Special Service Calls

- 35,284 in total (a decrease of 6.7% as against Year 2018)
- Notable incidents: Collision and derailment incidents of MTR trains in March and September, and a serious bus crash on San Tin Highway in December (6 deaths and 39 injuries).

## Fire Protection Regulatory Work

### Fire Safety Inspections

- 423,184 fire safety inspections in total  
(including 239,780 inspections of fire service installations and equipment(FSIs) in which a total of 2,764 Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued and 343 prosecutions instituted.)

### Control of Dangerous Goods

- The Anti-illicit Fuelling Activities Task Force: carrying out a total of 1,105 inspections and 109 surprise operations while also handling 116 complaints and seizing over 210,000 litres of illicit fuel, with prosecutions instituted in 111 cases.



# 2019 Year-end Review Highlights

## Enhance the Fire Safety of Old Commercial and Domestic Buildings

- The Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme was well received. The Government proposed allocating another \$3.5 billion to sustain the momentum of the scheme. It is envisaged that the scheme will be open for next round of applications in mid-2020.

## Reduce the Fire Risks of Old Industrial Buildings

- The Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Bill is being drawn up to make it mandatory for pre-1987 industrial buildings to enhance fire safety.

## Infrastructure Development

- Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point project: acceptance inspection of FSIs was completed.
- Hong Kong International Airport: acceptance inspection of FSIs at the expanded Terminal 1 was completed and outstanding building plans and performance-based design under the three-runway system project were being processed.

## Approval for Building Plans

- Assisting the construction industry by optimising acceptance inspections and administrative procedures in a flexible and pragmatic manner to expedite the approval procedures for compliance with fire safety requirements.

## Ambulance Service

### Ambulance Calls

- 822,150 in total (an increase of 2.2% as against Year 2018)

### Emergency Ambulance Call

- 766,679 in total (an increase of 2.4% as against Year 2018)
- 93.4% responded within the target response time of 12 minutes (performance pledge: 92.5%)

### Milestone of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ambulance Service

- Year 2019 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the FSD's ambulance service, which has strived to scale greater height in terms of service quality, professional training, as well as manpower and equipment.

### Paramedic Ambulance Service

- Ambulance personnel are qualified to administer 16 medical protocols and 19 medications to patients.



# 2019 Year-end Review Highlights

## Professional Equipment

- All ambulances have been equipped with automatic chest compression machines for improving the efficiency of chest compression. Ambulance personnel can be released to administer other important emergency medical protocols, which in turn will increase the survival rate of patients with cardiac arrest.

## Post-Dispatch Advice Service

### Applicable for 32 Types of Injuries and Sicknesses

- Personnel of the Fire Services Communications Centre (FSCC) provide callers with appropriate first-aid advice prior to the arrival of ambulance crew; 744,196 emergency ambulance service (EAS) callers (91% of the total) were provided with post-dispatch advice.

### Rendering Assistance in Critical Cases

- FSCC personnel provided relevant first-aid advice for EAS callers and rendered assistance in a number of critical cases, including giving a caller instructions on ways to help a woman to deliver her baby and guiding another caller with cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instructions to save the life of a person suffering from cardiac and respiratory arrest.

### Online Promotional Video

- The message of “stay on the phone for PDA, follow advice and save a life” was disseminated, with the number of viewers exceeding 1.39 million.

## Social Disturbances and Public Order Events

### Ongoing Social Disturbances

- Presented great challenges to the FSD. The fires often affected buildings in the vicinity, posing grave threats to life and property.

### Impacts of the Public Order Events

- 1,929 fire calls and 1,940 emergency ambulance calls were received.
- As many as 252 fire calls and 148 emergency ambulance calls were received on a single day.



# 2019 Year-end Review Highlights

- The provision of the FSD's emergency services was significantly hampered. The performance pledge on target response time was not met.

## Frontline Command and Control

- Contingency plans were formulated to provide the most suitable emergency services.
- Early deployment was made to deploy fire appliances/ambulances standing by at strategic locations.
- A number of Forward Command Posts were established in frontline districts for real-time monitoring.

## Ambulance Operation Support Bases

- Real-time monitoring was carried out to provide frontline personnel with the most timely and suitable support.

## Operational Deployment

- Fire appliances were dispatched to assist in the administering of quick on-site decontamination.

## Hazardous Materials

- Inspection of premises including shops selling metalwares was stepped up to combat over-storage of dangerous goods.
- About 61 litres of suspected Category 3 dangerous goods, about 83 litres of suspected Category 4 dangerous goods and about 940 litres of suspected Category 5 dangerous goods were seized.

# Emergency Preparedness Education

## Public Education and Promotion

- Vigorous efforts were made to promote the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training Programme in Campus, with primary schools now also covered.
- Publicity of the "Press to shock – Save a life" Automated External Defibrillator Course was stepped up, attracting over 15,280 participants.



# 2019 Year-end Review Highlights

## Community Emergency Preparedness

### Education Centre

- Virtual reality games and CPR performance experience were offered to visitors of the Fire and Ambulance Services Education Centre cum Museum to heighten their awareness of emergency preparedness.

### “Safety Tips for Travellers” Booklet

- Contingency measures for natural disasters and emergencies were introduced to ramp up Hong Kong people's response capabilities.

## Support for Ethnic Minority Communities

- As a means of promoting community integration, the Ethnic Minority Youth Development Team was established to help students who are interested in joining the FSD.
- Members of ethnic minorities were recruited as Building Fire Safety Envoys in the hope that they could help disseminating fire safety messages in their communities. There are a total of 778 members of ethnic minorities serving as Building Fire Safety Envoys across the territory.

## Other Major Initiatives

### Heung Yuen Wai Fire Station

- Commenced operation on September 30, 2019 to provide efficient emergency services at the Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point.

### Risk-based Building Fire Safety Visit Programme

- Buildings were inspected on a frequency contingent on their level of risk to identify fire hazards.
- Rolled out to all fire stations since September 2019 to enable the frontline personnel to grasp more precisely the conditions of the buildings in their respective districts. All buildings in Hong Kong are subject to inspections.



# 2019 Year-end Review Highlights

## Plans for the Year Ahead

### Recruitment

- 860 fire and ambulance personnel (165 officers and 695 rank-and-file staff) are expected to be recruited in 2020.
- Year-round recruitment exercises for Station Officer will continue so that vacancies can be filled in a timely manner.

### Fourth Generation Mobilising System (4GMS)

- The tender was awarded in August 2019 and the development project is well underway. The new system is scheduled to be commissioned in 2023.

### Advanced Equipment

- The 12-Lead Electrocardiogram Monitor was introduced in collaboration with the Hospital Authority to optimise the first aid and treatment procedures for patients with suspected myocardial infarction.

### Service Enhancement with the aid of technologies

- Modern firefighting robots will be procured to enhance safety and efficiency of firefighting operations.
- The adoption of intelligent technologies on FSIs will be encouraged.

### Sustainable Development of Emergency Ambulance Service and Paramedical Service

- An overall review of the paramedic training mechanism is being conducted, in collaboration with the Hospital Authority, professional medical bodies and academic institutions, with the aim of developing a sustainable paramedic training mechanism which can cope better with the needs of Hong Kong.



