



Hong Kong Fire Services Department

**Serving with Courage,
Passion and Commitment**

**2020
Year-end
Review Highlights**



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Firefighting and Rescue

Fire Calls

- 33,632 in total (a decrease of 10.6% as against Year 2019)

No. 3 or Above Alarm Fires

- 4 in total

Building Fire Calls

- 28,752 in total (a decrease of 8.7% as against Year 2019)
- 94.8% were responded to within the graded response time (performance pledge: 92.5%)

Fire Incident on Canton Road, Yau Ma Tei (November 15, 2020)

- A dedicated team was formed to investigate the causes of the fire and the multiple casualties.

Special Service Calls

- 32,358 in total (a decrease of 8.3% as against Year 2019)
- Notable incident: an accident at the Environmental Protection Department's Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in Tsing Yi, involving the collapse of a working platform inside an incinerator.

Fire Protection Regulatory Work

Fire Safety Inspections

- 370,455 fire safety inspections in total
(including 210,036 inspections of fire service installations and equipment (FSIs), resulting in a total of 6,141 Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued and 808 prosecutions instituted)

Control of Dangerous Goods

- The Anti-illicit Fuelling Activities Task Force: carried out a total of 879 inspections and 102 surprise operations, as well as handling 214 complaints and seizing over 230,000 litres of illicit fuel, with prosecutions instituted in 81 cases.

Stepping Up Combat on Illegal Storage or Conveyance of Dangerous Goods

- The Dangerous Goods Enforcement Team: Carried out 1,042 inspections against sites with higher risks of non-compliance and 23 joint operations with the Police and tunnel operators to intercept suspicious vehicles,



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successfully detecting a total of 14 cases involving illegal storage or conveyance of dangerous goods, seizing over 2,600 litres of dangerous goods, and instituting prosecutions against the persons concerned.

Enhancing Fire Safety of Buildings

- **Old composite buildings:** The Government made a total provision of \$5.5 billion to the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme, which is reckoned to benefit all target composite buildings in need of financial assistance under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance.
- **Old industrial buildings:** The Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 636), passed in mid-2020, requires industrial buildings constructed before 1987 to improve fire safety.

Special Inspection Operation

- The inspection of over 2,000 domestic or composite buildings (buildings of comparable age to the subject building in the fire incident on Canton Road, Yau Ma Tei) jointly with the Buildings Department was completed by the end of 2020 to see if there were any fire hazards, and enforcement actions were taken where necessary.

Local Infrastructure Development

- **Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Tunnel:** Acceptance inspection of FSIs was completed.
- **Hong Kong International Airport:** Acceptance inspection of FSIs in the new underground Automated People Mover System Depot was completed; the outstanding building plans and performance-based designs under the Three-runway System project are being processed.
- **Shatin to Central Link (Hung Hom to Admiralty Section):** FSI plans and the pertinent acceptance inspection under project are being processed.

Fire Service Installations Acceptance Inspection

- Newly revised application procedures for inspection and testing of FSIs in new building were introduced to improve the efficiency of FSI acceptance inspection and trade's compliance rate with relevant requirements.
- Existing acceptance inspection process was fine-tuned, in light of the Government's anti-epidemic strategy, to facilitate social distancing.



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Ambulance Service

Ambulance Calls

- 689,788 in total (a decrease of 16.1% as against Year 2019)

Emergency Ambulance Calls

- 640,236 in total (a decrease of 16.5% as against Year 2019)
- 94.1% were responded to within the target response time of 12 minutes (performance pledge: 92.5%)

Support for the Frontline

- The manpower for the Rapid Response Vehicles and the Special Support Unit was strengthened in view of the continuous growth in public demand for ambulance service over the past few years and unanticipated events, including the handling of major incidents and conveyance of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Continuous Development of Paramedic Ambulance Service

- The Paramedic Development and Accreditation Advisory Committee was established in a bid to promote the continuous professional development and to develop a locally-based certification scheme for relevant training.

Post-dispatch Advice Service

Applicable for 32 Types of Injuries and Sicknesses

- Post-dispatch advice was provided for an average of more than 1,300 calls each day to enable callers to handle the patients and help stabilise their conditions prior to the arrival of an ambulance crew.

Successful Handling of Critical Cases

- More than satisfactory results were achieved in view of the large number of successful life-saving cases.

Anti-epidemic Efforts

Calls of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

- A total of 7,557 calls of confirmed COVID-19 cases were handled, with the involvement of 2,652 ambulance personnel and 37 fire personnel.



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Tackling the Epidemic with Agility and Swiftness

- Supporting units formulated contingency plans and anti-epidemic measures, and swiftly procured and distributed epidemic prevention supplies, making sure that the FSD members would have adequate and proper personal protective equipment.
- Disinfection facilities were installed respectively in Tung Chung and Penny's Bay fire station-cum-ambulance depots to provide enhanced health protection for fire and ambulance personnel. The same will be done in other FSD premises where necessary.

Assisting in the Establishment of Quarantine and Medical Facilities and Ensuring Their Fire Safety

- Formulated fire safety requirements for the Government's quarantine centres and the North Lantau Hospital Hong Kong Infection Control Centre, and approved and inspected fire safety provisions therein to enable the commissioning of these facilities within an extremely short span of time.
- Rapid Response Teams were set up and be on standby around the clock at the facilities to ensure their fire safety.

Support for the Government's Anti-epidemic Work

- Vigorous supports were given to anti-epidemic efforts, including
 - To help in turning Chun Yeung Estate in Fo Tan into a temporary quarantine centre in the early days of the epidemic outbreak (about 70 volunteers);
 - To assist the Department of Health (DH) in paying visits to people subject to compulsory quarantine at home (about 60 serving members);
 - To assist in operation of the Home Quarantine Taskforce of the DH's Centre of the Health Protection (5 Ambulance Officers);
 - To serve as officers-in-charge or samplers in COVID-19 testing centres under the Universal Community Testing Programme (more than 1,500 off-duty/retired fire and ambulance personnel); and



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- To assist in operation of the Contact Tracing Office at Kai Tak Community Hall to break the chains of transmission (12 serving members).

Emergency Preparedness Education and Promotion

Community Emergency Preparedness

- Online platforms were put into greater use for public education to disseminate information regarding fire safety, emergency preparedness as well as epidemic prevention to different age and community groups.

Support for Ethnic Minorities

- Continuous assistance was given, through the Ethnic Minority Youth Development Team, to young members of ethnic minorities to facilitate their joining the department.

Promotion of Fire Prevention to Ethnic Minorities

- Three Contract Community Programme Assistants, who are able to communicate in South Asian languages, were recruited to promote fire prevention knowledge.
- Continuous efforts were made to recruit ethnic minorities as Building Fire Safety Envoys. Currently, a total of 783 members of ethnic minorities are recruited as Building Fire Safety Envoys across the territory.

Other Major Initiatives

Firefighting and Rescue Facilities

- The Tuen Mun Fireboat Station, whose relocation works is scheduled to be completed in 2021, will be commissioned in the same year.
- Fire services facilities are being constructed to accommodate the future development of the Three-runway System of Hong Kong International Airport and Lok Ma Chau Loop.

Procurement of Fireboat

- The new Fireboat No. 7, the world's first civil ship with protection against chemical, biological, radiological



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and nuclear risk certified by ship classification society, was put on-run on October 15, 2020.

- Procurement of a fast rescue vessel and a fireboat is in progress to enhance rescue efficiency in the eastern waters of Hong Kong.

Unmanned Aircraft System Team

- The team is equipped with six unmanned aircraft systems. Five members of the team are operators of unmanned aircraft systems with qualifications recognised by the Civil Aviation Department.
- The team was turned out (on 11 occasions in 2020) to support frontline fire personnel in operational incidents.

Firefighter Locator System

- The new system, consisting of Personal Transmitter and Handheld Receiver, can enhance the safety and operational efficiency of frontline fire personnel at fire the ground by effectively guiding rescuers to locate them when they are in need of assistance.

Expansion of the Pre-hospital 12-lead Electrocardiogram Scheme

- The FSD cooperated with the Hospital Authority to enhance the survival rate of patients with suspected myocardial infarction by installing defibrillator monitors in all ambulances to expand the scheme across the territory on February 1 2021.

Plans for the Year Ahead

Epidemic Prevention and Control

- The FSD will continue to keep a vigilant watch over the COVID-19 epidemic, adjust epidemic prevention strategies as appropriate and stand at the forefront of the fight against the epidemic to safeguard public health.

Use of New Technologies to Enhance Provision of Emergency Services

- The Implementation of Logistics Solution of Dangerous Drugs will be initiated to enable effective monitoring



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of the stock level and expiry date of dangerous drugs.

- “Firefighting robots” will be procured to enhance operational safety and efficiency.

AED Anywhere for Anyone

- More than 100 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) will be installed outside the fire stations and ambulance depots across the territory for public access; one-stop support services will be provided and a centralised AED Registry for Emergency will be rolled out to facilitate effective public access to AEDs.

Fourth Generation Mobilising System (4GMS)

- The 4GMS, whose design works are scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2021, will be commissioned in 2023.

Recruitment

- 927 fire and ambulance personnel (131 officers and 796 rank-and-file staff) are expected to be recruited in 2021; Year-round recruitment exercises of Station Officer will continue for filling vacancies in a timely manner.



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