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SERVING WITH COURAGE
AND PASSION
COMMITMENT

2021 Year-end Review Highlights

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2021 Year-end Review Highlights

Firefighting and Rescue

- Fire Calls** - 33,891 in total (a year-on-year increase of 0.8%)
- No. 3 of Above Alarm Fires** - 6 in total
- Building Fire Calls**
 - 29,157 in total (a year-on-year increase of 1.4%)
 - 93.8% were responded to within the graded response time. (performance pledge: 92.5%)
- Special Service Calls** - 36,176 in total (a year-on-year increase of 11.8%)
- Mountain Rescue Incidents** - 951 in total, an increase of 58.0% against 2020 (602 cases)

Fire Protection Regulatory Work

- Amendment of Legislation on Fire Protection**
 - Amendment of the Dangerous Goods Ordinance (Cap. 295) and its subsidiary regulations was completed. They are expected to come into force in early 2022. The amendments will help improving the local regulatory regime on dangerous goods, bringing it in line with international standards, which can serve the purpose of facilitating operation of the trade and giving better protection to the public.
 - The department took the initiative to amend the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations (Cap. 95B) to facilitate members of the public to purchase and install stand-alone fire detectors on their own volition.
- Voluntary Recognition Scheme for Fire Service Installation Technicians**
 - The scheme was implemented to enhance the professionalism and performance standard of FSI practitioners through prerequisite trainings.
 - Eligible FSI practitioners can apply to become a recognized FSI Technician.
- Enhancement of Fire Safety of Old Buildings**
 - Amendment of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) commenced and Panel on Security of the Legislative Council (LegCo) was consulted, with the objective to enhance fire safety of old buildings in a more efficient and effective manner.
- Keeping Pace with Infrastructure Developments in Hong Kong**
 - FSI acceptance inspection for SkyCity Phase 1 of Hong Kong International Airport was completed, and that of the associated building structures of the Three-Runway System was underway.
 - FSI acceptance inspection for stations along MTR Tuen Ma Line was completed in the 1st quarter of 2021, and the stations commissioned in June 2021.
 - FSI acceptance inspection for stations along MTR East Rail Line Cross-Harbour Extension (i.e. Hung Hom Station Extension, Exhibition Centre Station and Admiralty Station Extension), as well as the ventilation buildings and tunnels along that rail line is scheduled for completion in January 2022.
 - Fire safety certification for M+ Museum in West Kowloon Cultural District was completed, and licence applications related to Hong Kong Palace Museum are



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underway.

- FSI acceptance inspection for the puzzle-stacking automated parking system on Hoi Shing Road, Tsuen Wan was completed in November 2021.
- Proposed performance-based designs and building plans of the Main Stadium and Indoor Sports Centre of Kai Tak Sports Park are being processed.
- FSI acceptance inspection for Tseung Kwan O-Lam Tin Tunnel project commenced in January 2022.

Fire Safety Inspections

- 414,778 in total
(including 260,275 FSI inspections, resulting in a total of 6,694 Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued and 1,033 prosecutions instituted)

Dangerous Goods Control

- A total of 1,043 inspections and 105 surprise operations conducted, 402 complaints handled, and over 180,000 litres of illicit fuel seized (with prosecutions instituted for 128 cases)

Ambulance Service

Ambulance Calls

- 765,614 in total (a year-on-year increase of 10.99 %)

Emergency Ambulance Calls

- 715,194 in total (a year-on-year increase of 11.71%)
- 92.4% were responded to within the target response time of 12 minutes. (performance pledge: 92.5%)

Frontline Support

- To cope with ambulance service demand in the district and shorten the response time
- Ta Kwu Ling Ambulance Depot and Kwu Tung Ambulance Deployment Point were put into commission in October 2021 and November 2021 respectively.

Outbreak Control and Response to Epidemic

- FSD allocated additional resource for ad-hoc procurement, e.g. procurement of equipment and supplies, installation of disinfection facilities.
- Outbreak Control and Response Team members was set up, who have knowledge of infectious disease control, clinical skills of handling infected patients and the ability to use special personal anti-epidemic equipment and tools.

Close Co-operation with the Hospital Authority (HA)

- Pre-hospital 12-lead Electrocardiogram Scheme expanded to cover all Accident and Emergency (A&E) Departments under HA since February 2021; ambulance personnel bring forward the procedures for assessing a patient's condition with the use of a defibrillator monitor in the ambulance.
- In collaboration with HA, Pre-hospital Stroke Notification mechanism has expanded to cover all A&E departments since August 2021.

Logistics Solution of Dangerous Drugs

- A logistics solution was rolled out to monitor the stock of dangerous drugs, which further strengthen the management of dangerous drugs.



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Post-dispatch Advice (PDA) Service

Handling of a large number of life-threatening cases

- In 2021, PDA provided for a total of 566,326 emergency ambulance calls, accounting for 95.1% of all applicable calls. PDA can help members of the public handle and stabilize the patients' condition before arrival of ambulance.

View of National Security and Counter-terrorism (CT) Work

Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU)

- FSD is a member department of ICTU. Apart from stepping up efforts in exercises, training as well as CT public education and publicity work, the department conducted risk assessment on critical infrastructures and formulates operational plans to reinforce prevention against terrorist activities.

Public Education Activities

- CT@Community Activity Day was jointly held with ICTU in August 2021 for the purpose of enhancing participants' CT awareness through games, exhibitions and other activities.
- National Security Education Day was held in April 2021 to showcase publicly the department's efforts on safeguarding national security.

Fire & Ambulance Services Teen Connect (FAST Connect)

- FAST Connect was established in December 2021 to foster positive thinking, law-abiding awareness, self-discipline and team spirit among its teenage members by providing a wide range of training programmes.

Strengthening Service Members' Sense of belongings towards Country and Positive Thinking

- A flag raising ceremony was held at Fire and Ambulance Services Academy (FASA) on Constitution Day in December 2021 to deepen service members' understanding of our country and the constitutional basis of Hong Kong.
- Training on Chinese-style foot drill was already provided to all uniformed members in 2021, and 24th January 2022 will see a switch to Chinese-style foot drill in all daily ceremonial occasions.
- A Value-driven-Actions Campaign was launched to prompt members to reflect on departmental vision, mission and value from multiple perspectives.

Anti-epidemic Efforts

Calls related to COVID-19 Cases

- A total of 3,317 calls related to confirmed COVID-19 cases were handled, with the involvement of 2,099 fire and ambulance personnel.

Assisting the Government in Implementing Anti-epidemic Measures

- About 2,100 off-duty service members were deployed to participate in 6 compulsory testing operations in "restricted areas" in early 2021



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Flexible Deployment of Resources to Support Anti-epidemic Efforts

- Rapid Response Teams have been deployed to 6 quarantine centres (QCs) since March 2020 to provide round-the-clock services to ensure fire safety of the QCs.
- Assistance was rendered in transferring confirmed or suspected patients/close contacts/inbound commuters with symptoms to hospitals, community isolation/treatment facilities, QCs or temporary testing centres for corresponding arrangements.

Secondment of Service Members to the Department of Health

- The department seconded a total of 38 fire personnel to the Contact Tracing Office of Centre for Health Protection which is located in Kai Tak Community Hall.
- 5 Ambulance Officers were also seconded to the Confinee Hotline Centre under the Centre for Health Protection.
- 78 service members were seconded to 2 community vaccination centres to assist the management and operation of the centres.

Reaching Out to Community and Publicity Work

"AED Anywhere for Anyone" (AAA) Programme

- Launched in June 2021 together with the roll-out of "Centralized AED Registry for Emergency (CARE)", the programme is an online platform that provides the locations and related information of over 1,300 AEDs.
- It aims to encourage the community to install AEDs, and educate the public to use AED in the event of emergencies.

Enhanced Support for Ethnic Minority (EM) Groups

- The department continued to participate in the Cross-disciplined Forces Training Programme and organise activities of the Ethnic Minority Youth Development Team to assist EM youths in integrating into the community, cultivate positive values among them and enhance their understanding of the department.
- The department took the initiative to visit the gathering places of EM communities and to disseminate fire safety messages.
- More EM Fire Safety Ambassadors and Building Fire Safety Envoys will be recruited to help enhance EM groups' fire safety awareness and knowledge

Other Major Initiatives

Grade Structure Review of the Disciplined Services Continuous Professional Development

- Salary and increment recommendations in the Report on the Grade Structure Review for the Disciplined Services Grade came into force in September 2021
- Fireman/Firewoman (Operational/Marine) Foundation Training Course was accredited by Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications under the Qualifications Framework (QF) in September 2021.
- It was included in the Qualifications Register as Level 4 in October 2021, which is equivalent to the level of an Associate Degree or a Higher Diploma.



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Reprovision of Tuen Mun Fireboat Station

- The new Fireboat Station commissioned in July 2021.
- Following the construction of Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link, the station has been strategically relocated with an aim to enhance efficiency of marine firefighting and rescue for the northwestern waters.

Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) for Fire and Emergency Services

- The department's proposal on "Setting Up Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) for Fire and Emergency Services" won the second runner-up prize in the Leading Towards Robotics Technologies Innovation Competition organised by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer in July 2021, which bore testimony to the potential functions that the system can serve in aiding rescue operations.
- The new system is expected to be put into service in mid-2022.

Intelligence Dashboard Platform

- FSD Geographic Information System Portal and FSD Intelligence Dashboard Platform were launched in September 2021.
- With the use of data analytic methods, they collate operational data, explore the associations or trends, and thus help enhance the operational efficiency.

Fire Services Department Pak Shing Kok Married Quarters

- The Married Quarters in Tseung Kwan O, which provide 648 flats, was completed in May 2021.
- It is the first pilot project of the Government to promote the adoption of concrete "modular integrated construction" method in Hong Kong.

Plans for the Year Ahead

Vigilance Against the Epidemic

- The department will stay vigilant and keep a close watch on epidemic development, and will develop well-conceived plans covering all fronts including operational strategy, protection equipment, resources deployment and logistical support.

Firefighting and Rescue Facilities

- Fire service facilities to tie in with the development of the Three-Runway System of Hong Kong International Airport would be completed and commissioned in phases between 2022 and 2024.
- 3 of these facilities are scheduled for commissioning in the 2nd quarter of 2022.

Recruitment

- 885 personnel of fire and ambulance stream will be recruited in 2022. (128 are of officer rank and 757 of other ranks)

Enhancement of Emergency Services with New Technologies

- Firefighting robots are procured to assist fire personnel in prolonged firefighting and detection operations on complex fire grounds. They are expected to be put into service in 3rd quarter of 2022.
- The department is developing an application programme for handling multiple casualties incidents. The programme is to assist incident commanders in preparing the information of casualties, hence streamlining the operational procedures and facilitating deployment of ambulance resources.



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Fourth Generation Mobilising System (4GMS)

- The system will enable the department to handle complicated incidents more effectively and obtain more data which will help improve our services.
- 2 active Fire Services Communication Centres (FSCCs) will be established. In the event that one FSCC fails, the other will immediately take over and handle incidents of the entire territory of Hong Kong.
- Design and construction work commenced in August 2019.
- The system is expected to be rolled out in the 3rd quarter of 2023.

Implementation of the amended Dangerous Goods Ordinance

- The Secretary for Security will appoint an effective date by notice in the Gazette for all the provisions to come into operation on the same date. It is expected to be implemented in early 2022.
- A grace period of 24 months will be given for the trades and the public to adapt to the new regulations.
- FSD will continue to combat illegal fueling operations through intelligence collection and strategic planning

Amendment of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance

- Proposed amendments to the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap.572) were discussed in a meeting of the Panel on Security of LegCo in September 2021, in which members' views on the amendments were sought.
- The department aims to commence public consultation in 2022. After consultation, the Government will formulate suitable proposals, and table the bill at LegCo for its consideration.

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