



**Hong Kong
Fire Services Department**

*Serving with Courage,
Passion and Commitment*



**Fire Services Department
Year-end Review 2022**



Fire Services Department Year-end Review 2022

Reorganisation of the FSD

- Implemented the recommendations in the “Report on the Grade Structure Review for the Disciplined Services Grades” by creating the post of “Deputy Director (Public Safety and Corporate Strategy), with the incumbent Deputy Director redesignated as “Deputy Director (Operations)”
- The Operational Support and Professional Development Command was established
- The former Headquarters Command was renamed the Corporate Strategy Command
- A three-year supernumerary “Deputy Chief Fire Officer (Building Improvement)” was created

Firefighting and rescue services

Fire calls

- 34,775 in total (a year-on-year increase of 2.6%)

No. 3 or above alarm fires

- 5 in total (a year-on-year decrease of 1 case)

Building fire calls

- 31,111 in total (a year-on-year increase of 6.7%)
- 94.9% were responded to within the graded response time (performance pledge: 92.5%)

Special service calls

- 35,314 in total (a year-on-year decrease of 2.4%)



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Fire protection regulatory work

Newly amended Dangerous Goods Ordinance and its subsidiary legislations

- Came into effect on March 31, 2022 with a 24-month transitional period
- Aligns regulatory standards in Hong Kong with international requirements in terms of classification, marking and labelling of dangerous goods

Enhancement of fire safety of old buildings

- The public consultation was completed in September last year, and it is planned to submit the legislative amendment proposal to the Legislative Council for scrutiny in 2023

Streamlined certification and acceptance inspection of fire service installations and equipment (FSI)

- Speeding up the acceptance inspection of public housing development
 - A maximum of six additional dedicated teams of a total of 12 members were set up
 - The inspection and testing of the FSI concerned could be completed in six working days
- The FSD continued to work in close cooperation with stakeholders in the industry in hopes of achieving a higher rate of success in certification and acceptance inspection

Fire safety inspections

- 433,466 in total
(including 282,138 inspections targeted at the repair and maintenance of FSI in buildings)
- 8,132 Fire Hazard Abatement Notices were issued
- 1,767 cases were brought to prosecution

Anti-illicit fuelling activities

- A total of 906 inspections and surprise operations were conducted, and over 380,000 litres of illicit fuel were seized
- 249 cases were brought to prosecution



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Ambulance service

Ambulance calls

- 740,129 in total (a year-on-year decrease of 3.3%)

Emergency ambulance calls

- 703,113 in total (a year-on-year decrease of 1.7%)
- 88% were responded to within the target response time of 12 minutes (performance pledge: 92.5%)

The plight of the fifth wave of the COVID-19 epidemic

- The demand for ambulance service surged
- The time for handling COVID-19 related ambulance cases was 1.5 to 2 times longer than usual
- A quarter of the total ambulance manpower were absent from work due to COVID-19 infection or under quarantine
- The ambulances were required to be thoroughly disinfected and cleaned after attendance to each confirmed case

Control and response to epidemic situation

- Ambulance personnel were arranged to work overtime
- Retired ambulance personnel were employed
- Non-frontline ambulance personnel and fire personnel who were qualified first responders were deployed to take up ambulance duties
- A five-day "Service Stand-to" alert was issued in early March, during which interim measures were taken, including rearranging the duty rosters of ambulance personnel and requesting staff to cancel leaves
- The Director's Command Post and the Ambulance Command Post were activated
 - Ambulances were diverted to various accident and emergency departments
 - Disinfection of ambulances and staggered meal breaks for staff were arranged
 - Additional ambulances were deployed to clear the backlog of ambulance calls
- Disinfection facilities were set up in appropriate locations near hospitals and hired additional contractors to carry out cleaning and disinfection work
- A dedicated fleet was built for the conveyance of non-emergency confirmed patients by immediately retrofitting some of the FSD's personnel carriers and renting a few dozen coaches



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Anti-epidemic efforts

Arranged the transfer of confirmed patients to community isolation facilities (CIFs)

- Set up an AI-powered social media service platform that could deliver round-the-clock automated inquiries and instant replies
- A cumulative total of over 200,000 confirmed patients were transferred to CIFs under the FSD's arrangement (including 36 DSE candidates who sat for the examination in CIF)
- The FSD brought together the Auxiliary Medical Service, the Hospital Authority and St. John Ambulance Brigade to transfer residents between the isolation facilities, holding centres and residential care homes

View of national security

Full implementation of Chinese-style foot drill

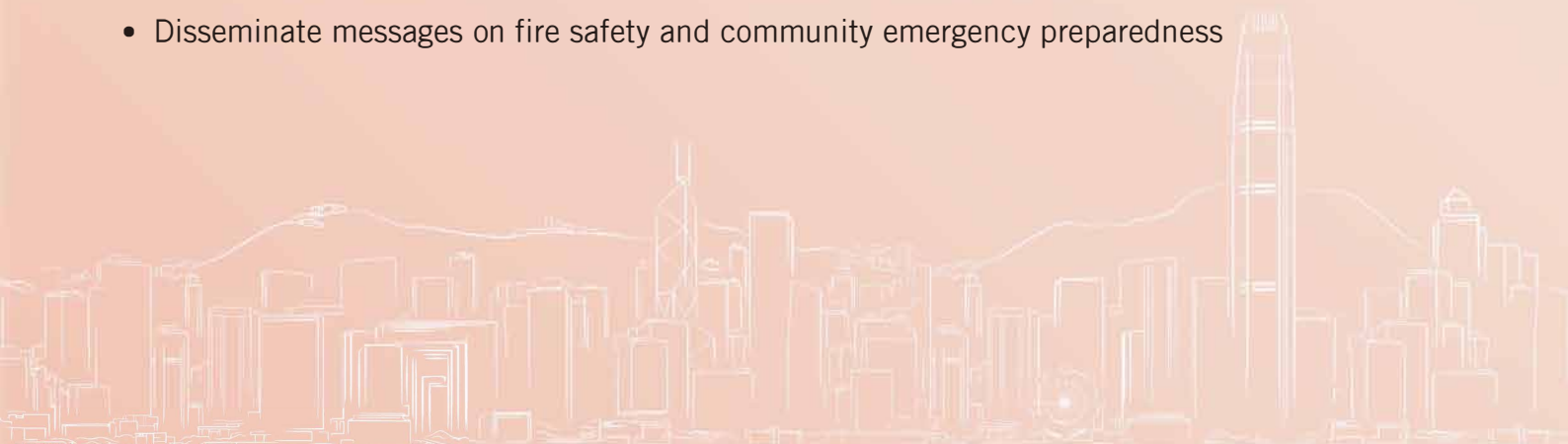
- The Chinese-style foot drill was fully implemented in 2022, and the FSD's Guard of Honour was formed to perform protocol and ceremonial services

Joint Training Scheme with local associations and schools

- Students were taught Chinese-style foot drill and flag raising techniques to nurture in them a deeper sense of belonging to our country

Establishment of the FSD Community Collaboration Network

- Foster a closer partnership with the 18 District Fire Safety Committees for the creation of a cohesive community network
- Disseminate messages on fire safety and community emergency preparedness





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Youth development

Fire and Ambulance Services Teen Connect (FAST Connect)

- About 180 members have been recruited, with plan to increase to 300 in this academic year
- Training and volunteer activities were provided to enrich the learning and life experience of the teenage members and to cultivate in them positive thinking, law-abiding awareness and national identity

Ethnic minority youths

- There are a total of 14 non-ethnic Chinese serving members in the FSD, with five of them now undergoing the foundation training

Leverage of technology

Enhancing the efficiency of firefighting and rescue operations

- Two firefighting robots and 20 unmanned aircraft systems were procured
- The “Patient Tagging System for Multiple Casualties Incidents” was ushered

“AED Anywhere for Anyone” programme

- The total number of participating organisations and community partners has reached over 160, making available a total of more than 1,600 AEDs





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Plans for the year ahead

The initiatives highlighted in the Policy Address that involve the FSD will be taken forward

- Include safeguarding national security, deepening the cooperation and exchanges with our counterparts in fire and rescue services in the Greater Bay Area, leveraging innovative technologies to elevate the quality of our services, strengthening community emergency preparedness capabilities, enhancing fire safety in old buildings and raising law-abiding awareness among the younger generation

Recruitment

- It is expected that 771 personnel for the fire and ambulance streams will be recruited this year – 141 of officer rank and 630 of rank-and-file rank

Building a home brand

- The training courses for the High Angle Rescue Team and Compartment Fire Specialists are expected to be accredited in the second quarter this year

Collaboration with the counterparts in the Greater Bay Area

- More training courses and technical exchange sessions will be held
- We aim to work towards mutual recognition of each other's professional qualifications, and to raise expertise and international status of the profession

Wider use of technology to optimise the services

- To conduct a study in collaboration with a local university on the use of an AI algorithm together with big data and geographical information to optimise our fire safety inspection, as well as the deployment and dispatch of ambulances
- An integrated mobile app will be developed to facilitate mountain rescue operations. In conjunction with the GPS in mobile devices, the app can be more accurate in identifying the location of missing persons, which will be conducive to operational deployment and significantly cut search time





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