

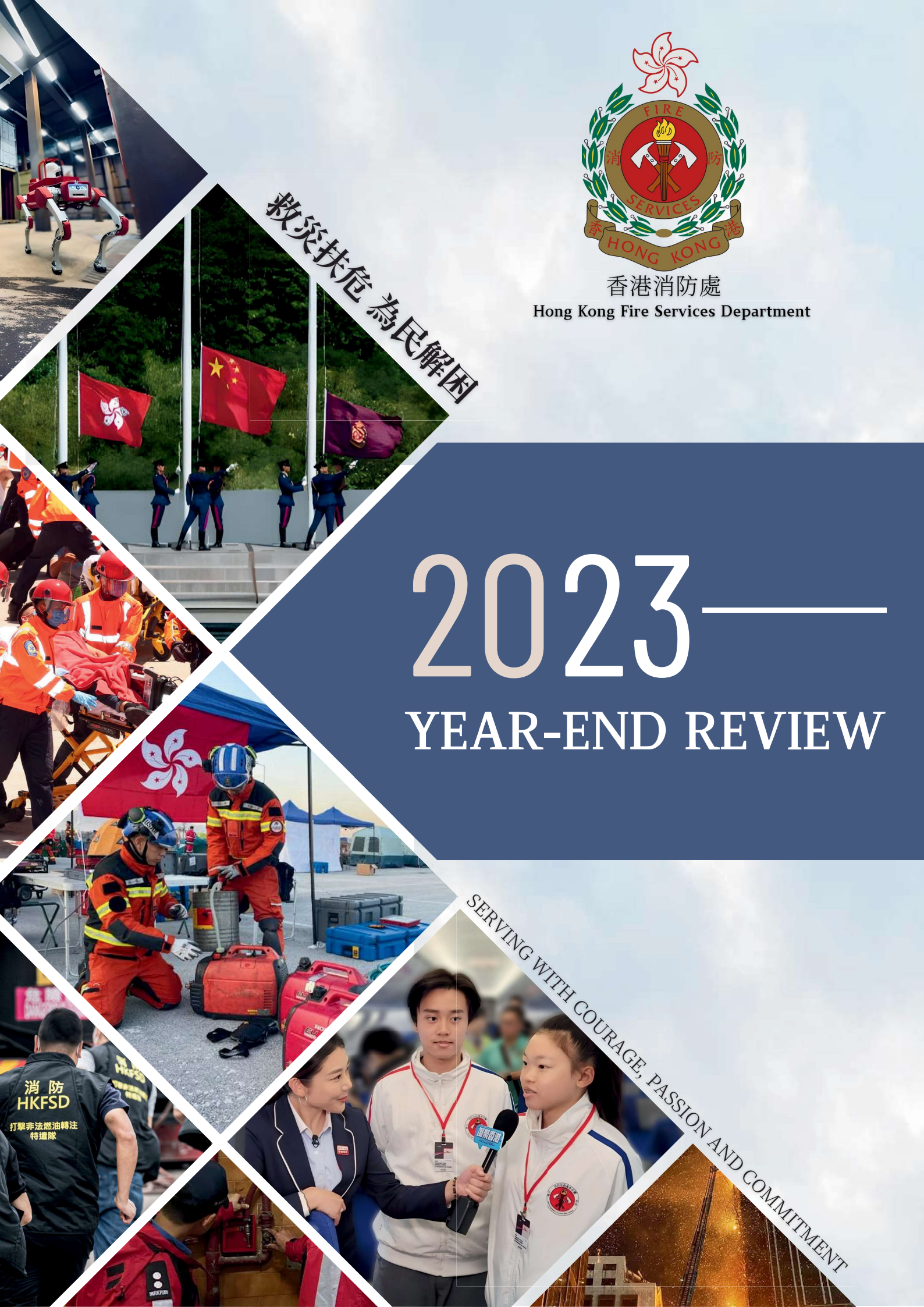


香港消防處
Hong Kong Fire Services Department

救災扶危 為民解困

2023 YEAR-END REVIEW

SERVING WITH COURAGE, PASSION AND COMMITMENT



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HKFSD
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特遣隊

消防處



Hong Kong Fire Services Department



Key Review

February 2023 - deployed for the first time as members of the HKSAR search and rescue team to join the earthquake relief efforts in Türkiye

March 2023 - battled a No. 4 alarm fire at a construction site on Middle Road, Tsim Sha Tsui

September 2023 - tackled multiple incidents resulting from Super Typhoon Saola and a once-in-a-century torrential downpour

Unfortunately, Fireman Mr Yau Yiu-man passed away on January 19 this year while on duty in Penny's Bay

Pressing on with its work on all fronts in a result-driven manner

- Achieved the key performance indicators for 2023 set out in the Policy Address
- Made progress in various areas of work, including among others, safeguarding national security, strengthening its ties with the Mainland and overseas, leveraging innovative technology, enhancing community emergency preparedness, and raising law-abiding awareness of young people



Firefighting and Rescue Services

Fire calls:

36,103 in total
(a year-on-year increase of 3.8%)

No. 3 or above alarm fires:

9 in total
(a year-on-year increase of 4 cases)

Building fire calls:

- 32,497 in total (a year-on-year increase of 4.5%)
- 93.8% were responded to within the graded response time (performance pledge: 92.5%)

Special services calls:

40,763 in total
(a year-on-year increase of 15.4%)

Established the “Road and Railway Rescue Team” in August 2023



Fire Protection Regulatory Work

Fire safety inspections

- 456,168 in total (including 282,842 inspections targeted at the repair and maintenance of fire service installations and equipment (FSI) in buildings)
- 9,075 Fire Hazard Abatement Notices were issued
- 1,471 cases were brought to prosecution

Anti-illicit fueling activities

- Conducted more than 1,200 inspections and 24 inter-departmental enforcement operations, seizing nearly 500,000 litres of fuel
- Instituted prosecutions on 211 charges

Completed FSI acceptance inspections for a number of public housing projects

The newly amended Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations have come into effect

- Facilitated the voluntary use of portable firefighting equipment in domestic premises of the public's own volition
- Over 3,300 sets of "three treasures for fire protection" (i.e. fire extinguishers, fire blankets and stand-alone fire detectors) were distributed to residents of old buildings

The amended Dangerous Goods Ordinance

- 24-month transitional period will expire on March 30 this year
- More than 96% of dangerous goods licences have been converted to new licences and met the new standards of control

Facilitating the launch of last year's "Night Vibes Hong Kong" and the recent "Day x Night Vibes @ 18 Districts"

- Formulated corresponding fire safety requirements
- Adopted flexible and pragmatic approach to expedite the licensing application process
 - Substantially reduced the processing time of application from the original 34 working days to five working days

Implementation of the Registered Fire Engineer Scheme

- In the process of drawing up the relevant subsidiary legislation, code of practice and code of ethics, etc.
- The draft subsidiary legislation is expected to be introduced in the current term of the Legislative Council



Hong Kong Fire Services Department

Ambulance Service

Ambulance calls: 816,329 in total (a year-on-year increase of 10.3%)

Emergency ambulance calls:

- 775,625 in total (a year-on-year increase of 10.3%)
- 94.3% were responded to within the target response time of 12 minutes (performance pledge: 92.5%)

Made vigorous efforts to implement community education and publicity programmes on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs)

- Joined hands with various sectors of the community to form the Resuscitation Alliance in June 2023, currently with about 70,000 members
- The number of publicly accessible AEDs has increased to about 2,600

Safeguarding National Security

Set up the National Affairs and National Security Education Steering Committee for strengthening the education of its members on national affairs and national security

Arranged more than 200 recruits undergoing foundation training to attend national studies courses in Guangzhou

Set up the National Security Education cum Resource Centre

- The centre introduces the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, the Basic Law and the Hong Kong National Security Law, as well as the department's efforts in safeguarding national security
- About 20,000 visitors will be expected in the first half of 2024

Collaborating with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University as well as the organisations and schools in Wong Tai Sin District to train students in Chinese-style foot drill

Strengthening collaboration with its community partners in optimising fire safety measures for the local community

- Established a close and effective communication mechanism with the 18 District Fire Safety Committees through the FSD Community Collaboration Network
- Promoting fire safety and emergency preparedness



Links with the Mainland and Overseas

As cross-boundary travel had resumed, the FSD renewed its efforts in expanding exchange and collaboration with the Mainland and overseas

Promoting the sharing of fire services knowledge and information within the Greater Bay Area (GBA)

- Co-organising emergency rescue exercises and seminars
- Jointly established the GBA Fire and Rescue Knowledge Management Platform
 - Serving as a means to share operational experiences, firefighting and rescue strategies, and information such as those about the latest courses
- Strengthening interconnectivity and mutual communication within the Area

Organised the “Hong Kong Emergency Medical Services Competition cum Symposium 2024”

- With the participation of professionals from Macao and other cities in the GBA, as well as Singapore
- Had in-depth exchanges and sharing among all parties on pre-hospital ambulance service

Actively seeking collaboration with countries and regions along the Belt and Road

- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Singapore Civil Defence Force last year with a view to deepening co-operation and exchange



Youth Development

Fire & Ambulance Services Teen Connect (FAST Connect)

- Currently with around 450 members
- Expanding the programme to district level through 18 District Fire Safety Committees
- Last year, FAST Connect were established in Yau Tsim Mong District, Sha Tin District, Southern District, Wong Tai Sin District and Tsuen Wan District
- It is expected that the youth group can further expand to cover all 18 districts of Hong Kong by the end of this school year, with its membership increased to 800



Bringing Convenience to the Public through Innovative Technology

Enhancing the efficiency of firefighting and rescue operations

- Brought in electric Rapid Response Motorcycles with advanced features and robotic dog
- Developing an indoor locating equipment in collaboration with a Mainland supplier

Enhancing the efficiency of mountain search and rescue operations

- Introduced the “Mobile Phone Locator” mounted on unmanned aircraft systems
- About to launch a mobile application for mountain search and rescue operations

Optimising the use of information technology

- Over 260,000 followers in the official Facebook account
- Launched the official WhatsApp, WeChat and Instagram accounts last year
- To press ahead with the digitalisation of government services, commenced a series of work for the implementation of e-services in licence applications, e-payment and law enforcement

Facilitating the owners of old buildings to enhance the overall fire safety standards of buildings

- Collaborated with the Water Supplies Department and launched a new facilitation measure in July 2023, conditionally allowing some buildings to adopt improvised Fire Hydrant / Hose Reel Systems and connecting the fixed fire pumps to government water mains
- Established the Building Improvement Support Centre in December 2023
- Currently amending the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance, and planning to submit it to the Legislative Council for scrutiny in the current legislative year

Active efforts to cater for the needs arising from new energy development

- Developing firefighting and rescue plans for emergencies, and providing fire safety recommendations



Plans for the Year Ahead

Taking forward the various initiatives involving the FSD as set out in the Policy Address

Striving to realise the eight strategic priorities identified in 2023

- Including Integration into National Development, National Security, Operational Preparedness, Innovation and Technology, Partnership and Community Collaboration, Professional Development, People Development, and Environmental Sustainability

Building a home brand

- High Angle Rescue Professional Certificate Course and Professional Certificate in Compartment Fire Attacker Course were accredited at Level 4 of the Qualifications Framework
- Accreditation work for the diving and swift water rescue courses is underway
- Continue to deepen exchange with its fire service counterparts in the GBA, strengthen co-operation in different professional fields to leverage each other's strengths

Hosting the “Fire Asia International Conference” in collaboration with several professional bodies

Visiting the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations for specialised technical exchange

Seeking accreditation from the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group for the HKSAR search and rescue team as a medium International Search and Rescue Team

Partaking in the implementation of the Greater Bay Area Emergency Response and Rescue Operational Plan, and signing the relevant co-operation framework agreement within 2024

Recruitment

- Adjusted the eyesight test and physical fitness test requirements for entry to four grades in December 2023
- Established different recruitment campaigns, such as Universities-Connect (U-Connect), Athletes Connect (A-Connect), Mainland HK Students Connect (M-Connect) and Ethnic Minorities Connect (EM-Connect)
- It is expected that 727 personnel for the fire and ambulance streams will be recruited this year – 145 of officer rank and 582 of rank-and-file rank



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