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Fire Services Department Year-end Review

Serving with Courage, Passion and Commitment



Key Review

- Drew up the Strategic Plan 2024-2026 to clearly set out the development direction for the FSD in the coming three years
- Handled the No.3 alarm fire incident at New Lucky House in April 2024 and completed the amendment to the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance
- The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Emergency Management Co-operation and Greater Bay Area Emergency Response Operation Co-operation Framework Agreement was signed by the governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao last year

Firefighting and rescue services



37,828 calls in total
(a year-on-year increase of 4.8%)

- The rise was primarily attributed to an increase in unwanted alarms:

29,357 cases in total
(a year-on-year increase of 5.7%)

- Actual fire incidents:
5,222 in total
(a year-on-year increase of 154 cases)

FIRE CALLS



**95.6% of building
fire calls were
responded to
within the graded
response time**
(performance pledge:
92.5%)

**BUILDING FIRE
CALLS**



**39,320 calls
in total**
(a year-on-year
decrease of 3.5%)

**SPECIAL
SERVICES**

Fire protection regulatory work

Enhancing the overall efficiency of acceptance inspection of new buildings and projects that facilitate business operations and benefit the people

- The One-stop Coordination Office for New Fire Protection Facilities Acceptance will be established in March 2025
- Time required for acceptance inspections of average-scale regular projects: shortened from 52 working days to 35 working days
- Time required for acceptance inspections of public housing projects: 22 working days

Enhancing the fire safety of old buildings

- The newly amended Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance came into force on 13 December 2024
 - To introduce the defaulted works mechanism and increase penalties
 - To assist and drive target buildings regulated by the Ordinance to comply with the requirements
 - To enhance the fire safety standards of targeted buildings
- Support for target building owners and occupiers
 - Divided the fire safety improvement works into four stages and introduced a series of appropriate support measures to enhance enforcement effectiveness of the Ordinance
 - The Building Improvement Special Duty Team will be established by the first quarter of 2025 to strengthen law enforcement and enhance fire safety education
 - One new Building Improvement Support Centre will be established on Hong Kong Island and in the New Territories respectively by the third quarter of 2025 to increase coverage

Fire safety inspections

- 460,400 inspections were conducted in total
- 17,775 Fire Hazard Abatement Notices were issued in total
- 4,967 cases were brought to prosecution
- In response to the tragic fire at New Lucky House, the department conducted inspections of some 1,000 old composite buildings with relatively higher fire risk
 - About 8,200 proactive inspections were conducted in total
 - 8,661 notices were issued in total and over half of the cases were related to smoke stop door irregularities
 - Among the 5,991 expired notices, over 90% (i.e. 5,632 notices) had been complied with
 - Only four cases of recurrence of fire hazard, accounting for less than 0.1% of the total

Raising fire protection awareness in the community

- Implemented various educational and promotional programmes, including visiting old buildings and “three-nil buildings”, distributing the “Three Treasures for Fire Protection” and promoting the use of mini fire extinguishers
- During the Winter Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Promotional Month, the department promoted four key messages, namely “keep smoke stop doors closed”, “prepare the ‘three essentials’ for fire escape”, “annual inspection on fire service installations” and “safe use of lithium batteries and charging devices”



Implementation of the Registered Fire Engineer Scheme

- Conducted trade consultation in the first quarter of 2024 and received general support
- Details of the Scheme are being formulated, and the draft subsidiary legislation is expected to be introduced in the current Legislative Council term

Expiry of the transitional period of the newly amended Dangerous Goods Ordinance

- Converted licences for the trades, and implemented measures to help the trades and the public comply with the new requirements
- Updated the list of dangerous goods and relevant codes of practice late last year

Anti-illicit fuelling activities

- Conducted nearly 2,000 inspections and 29 interdepartmental enforcement operations, seizing about 630,000 litres of fuel
- Instituted prosecutions on 268 charges

Ambulance services

Emergency Ambulance Calls

- 784,243 calls in total (a year-on-year increase of 1.1%)
- 96.1% were responded to within the target response time of 12 minutes (performance pledge: 92.5%)

Set up a new ambulance depot at Kwun Tong Fire Station to meet the increasing demand for ambulance services in Kwun Tong

Continued to strengthen the promotion of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (“CPR”) and automated external defibrillators (“AEDs”)

- Collaborated with a number of organisations as well as District Offices to organise various training activities during the year
- Launched the Secondary School Student Digital AED and CPR Experiential Programme, under which students can experience how to handle cardiac arrest patients
 - 23 secondary schools participated in the Programme and over 2,500 secondary school students received training
 - The Programme will be expanded to another 50 secondary schools to provide training for about 5,000 secondary school students

Number of Resuscitation Alliance (“RA”) member organisations increased to nine

- New member organisations were the Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes HK Foundation and the Hong Kong College of Cardiology
- More than 160,000 citizens have been recruited as RA members

Expanding the coverage of AEDs for public use

- Currently, information on over 3,300 AEDs of about 370 institutions is available on the “Centralized AED Registry for Emergency”, and these AEDs are scattered in high-risk and crowded areas
- With funding from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the FSD launched the AED Everywhere Programme to progressively install AEDs at bus stops, transitional housing and light public housing

Safeguarding national security

Organised a number of activities to enhance the sense of national security among FSD staff

Took part in 12 inter-departmental counter-terrorism (“CT”) exercises, in which nearly 1,000 frontline staff members received CT training

Launched the FSD Community Emergency Responder (“FSDCER”) Scheme

- Replaced the existing “Fire Safety Ambassador” and “Building Fire Safety Envoy” schemes
- Added a parent-child programme to encourage parents to nurture fire safety awareness and emergency response capability in their children at an early age
- To holistically enhance the emergency preparedness of the public and instil into them a sense of commitment to the community

Implementing the “community-based” public safety strategy to optimise emergency response measures for local communities

- Establishing a closer and effective communication mechanism with the 18 District Fire Safety Committees through the FSD Community Collaboration Network

Links with the Mainland and overseas

Continued to deepen collaboration with the Mainland and overseas, proactively fostering technical exchange and professional development

Implemented the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Emergency Management Co-operation and Greater Bay Area Emergency Operation Co-operation Framework Agreement

- The governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao pledged to further strengthen co-operation on emergency management and rescue to enhance the effectiveness of cross-boundary rescues
- Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao co-organised four cross-boundary joint exercises
- During a joint exercise in May, FSD personnel and equipment entered the Mainland through the cross-boundary Green Channel for the first time

Proactively participated in professional conferences and technical exchanges in the Mainland and made 98 duty visits to the Mainland

- Attended the annual review meeting of the Committee of Fire Investigation Technology of China
- Fostered co-operation between Hubei and Hong Kong in aviation fire safety
- Had seven co-operative exchanges with Mainland hospitals and the National Health Commission

Organised Fire Asia 2024 in collaboration with several professional institutions in Hong Kong

- Attracted experts and delegates from 19 Belt and Road countries and ASEAN member states

Actively deepened ties with ASEAN member states and Asia-Pacific countries

- Invited representatives from six countries and regions to Hong Kong for the specialised technical exchange session of the Compartment Fire Behaviour Specialist Team



- Had in-depth exchanges with Singapore in the field of ambulance services
- Dispatched swiftwater and flood rescue specialists to Malaysia to provide technical guidance and expert advice to the local counterparts
- Showcasing Hong Kong's advantages as an international city and further consolidating FSD's influence in the area of regional emergency response

Youth development

Fire & Ambulance Services Teen Connect (FAST Connect)

- Expanded to cover all the 18 districts over the territory last year
- Members increased to more than 1,000
- The coverage will be further expanded to primary schools in future
- Formed the new Guards of Honour of FAST Connect

Ethnic Minority Community Emergency Preparedness Participation Scheme

- Organised an FSD Work-experience Day for local and ethnic minority students
- Helped ethnic minority teenagers integrate into the community

Bringing convenience to the public through innovative technology

Firefighting and rescue technology

- Introduced new applications to further enhance the mountain search and rescue system
- Trained fire personnel through the newly developed Virtual Fire Scene Incident Command Training System
- The Training System garnered a number of awards at the International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva and the Asia Exhibition of Innovations and Inventions Hong Kong

Coping with epidemics and infectious diseases

- The Infection Control and Critical Care Transfer Ambulance was put into service in December 2024
- Utilising big data to extend AED coverage
- Developing a data dashboard for enhancing the efficiency of emergency rescue resources allocation and quality of decision-making

Bringing convenience to the public

- Launched an electronic licence/certificate service to allow members of the public to verify documents conveniently
- A new online platform will be launched to facilitate public submission and enquiry of fire hazard complaint cases

Plans for the year ahead

Taking forward the various initiatives as set out in the Policy Address and the Strategic Plan 2024-2026

Shaping the fire services of Hong Kong into a quality brand

- Seven courses have been accredited at Level 4 of the Qualifications Framework
- Accreditation work for the Professional Certificate in HazMat technician is underway
- 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
- Planning to provide training and accredited courses for other countries and regions
- Promoting the professionalisation and internationalisation of fire services

Integration into national development

- Continuing to strengthen ties with our Mainland counterparts and deepen co-operation with the Greater Bay Area in training and technical exchange
- A cross-boundary joint exercise will be carried out by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in Hong Kong in late March this year with a view to further enhancing the capability of co-ordinated disaster management within the Greater Bay Area
- Drawing reference from national fire service technologies and standards to enhance the safety level of the local industry

Expediting digital transformation

- Collaborating with telecommunication service providers to promote smart firefighting
- Exploring innovative application of technologies in rescue, fire protection and emergency management
- Enhancing the level of intelligentisation and informatisation in firefighting holistically

Community work

- Deepening co-operation with District Fire Safety Committees and District Services and Community Care Teams
- Enhancing public awareness of fire safety and emergency preparedness comprehensively
- The FSDCER Scheme is expected to absorb 5,000 new members each year

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Hong Kong Fire Services Department