



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1976.

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FIRE LOSSES DOWN BY 20 PER CENT IN 1975

THE NUMBER OF FIRE CALLS RECEIVED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN 1975 SHOWED A SLIGHT INCREASE, BUT THE ESTIMATED TOTAL LOSSES WERE DOWN BY ABOUT 20 PER CENT.

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY, THE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED TO 7,370 FIRE CALLS LAST YEAR COMPARED WITH 6,971 FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR. DIRECT MONETARY LOSSES FROM FIRES IN 1975, ESTIMATED AT \$40 MILLION, WERE SIGNIFICANTLY DOWN ON THE FIGURE OF \$50 MILLION FOR 1974.

A TOTAL OF 399 INDUSTRIAL FIRES COSTING ABOUT \$29 MILLION WERE REPORTED. THIS MEANS THAT ALTHOUGH ONLY 5.4 PER CENT OF FIRES OCCURRED IN THIS SECTOR, THEY ACCOUNTED FOR 72 PER CENT OF TOTAL MONETARY LOSSES. THE RESPECTIVE FIGURES FOR 1974 WERE 377 FIRES AND \$38 MILLION.

THERE WERE ALSO 868 DOMESTIC FIRES, 1,854 GRASS FIRES AND 31 SHIP FIRES DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW.

AS IN PAST YEARS, THE LARGEST NUMBER OF FIRES WERE ATTRIBUTED TO CARELESS HANDLING OR DISPOSAL OF CIGARETTE ENDS AND MATCHES (2,293) AND ELECTRICAL FAULTS (1,087).

THIRTY-EIGHT PEOPLE DIED, 412 PEOPLE INCLUDING 25 FIREMEN WERE INJURED AND 513 PEOPLE WERE RESCUED BY FIREMEN.

THE YEAR'S MOST EXPENSIVE FIRE BROKE OUT ON CHRISTMAS DAY IN A FACTORY BUILDING IN LEE CHUNG STREET, CHAI WAN, WHERE THE LOSS AMOUNTED TO \$5.1 MILLION. IT TOOK FIREMEN MORE THAN EIGHT HOURS TO PUT OUT THE BLAZE.

DECEMBER WAS THE BUSIEST MONTH FOR FIREMEN WHEN 1,265 CALLS WERE DEALT WITH, FOLLOWED BY NOVEMBER WITH 863 FIRES.

IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT ALSO HANDLED 3,651 SPECIAL SERVICE CALLS INCLUDING DROWNINGS, HANGINGS, TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND OTHER MISHAPS IN WHICH 279 DEATHS AND 1,470 INJURIES OCCURRED.

COMMENTING ON THE STATISTICS, THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR. FRED WATSON, SAID: +ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A DROP OF 20 PER CENT IN FIRE LOSSES LAST YEAR, THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT AND NONE WHATEVER FOR COMPLACENCY.+

HE CONSIDERED THAT THE REDUCTION COULD PARTLY BE DUE TO THE INTENSIVE FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED: +A GREATER AWARENESS OF FIRE DANGERS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AS WELL AS THE COMMISSION OF A NUMBER OF NEW AND IMPROVED FIRE APPLIANCES MIGHT ALSO HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR THE SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL SAVING.+

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LUNAR NEW YEAR POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS WERE ANNOUNCED BY THE POST OFFICE TODAY.

THERE WILL BE NO MAIL DELIVERIES ON LUNAR NEW YEAR'S DAY (JANUARY 31) AND ON FEBRUARY 2 (MONDAY). ALL POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED.

ON FEBRUARY 1 (SUNDAY) AND ON FEBRUARY 3 (TUESDAY), THERE WILL BE ONE DELIVERY OF MAIL.

ON FEBRUARY 3, 32 POST OFFICES, INCLUDING THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, THE KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE AND THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE, WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 12 NOON.

ALL OTHER POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED.

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BOUNDARY STREET TRAFFIC RE-ROUTINGS

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT WITH EFFECT FROM 10 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 28), TRAFFIC IN BOUNDARY STREET BETWEEN SAI YEE STREET AND TAI HANG TUNG ROAD WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.

AS A RESULT, WESTBOUND TRAFFIC IN BOUNDARY STREET WILL BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT ONLY AT ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI HANG TUNG ROAD. IN ADDITION, SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC IN TAI HANG TUNG ROAD WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TURNING RIGHT INTO BOUNDARY STREET.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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PENALTIES FOR LATE IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS DOUBLED
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PENALTIES FOR SUBMITTING LATE IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS HAVE BEEN DOUBLED, THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT REMINDED TRADERS TODAY (MONDAY).

THE REVISED PENALTY, ANNOUNCED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE LAST FRIDAY, IS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING LARGE NUMBER OF DECLARATIONS WHICH ARE SUBMITTED LATE, COMPLICATING GREATLY THE TASK OF COMPILING ACCURATE TRADE STATISTICS.

THE NEW PENALTY IS BETWEEN \$10 AND \$200 PER DECLARATION, DEPENDING ON THE VALUE OF THE GOODS AND THE LENGTH OF THE DELAY.

DETAILS OF THE REVISED REGULATION ARE AVAILABLE AT THE AD VALOREM CHARGES COLLECTION OFFICE OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AT 46 CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, GROUND FLOOR, TEL. 5-242566 AND FROM THE D C AND I'S KOWLOON OFFICE AT ROOM NO. 610, 664 NATHAN ROAD, 6/F, TEL. 3-960432.

IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS ARE ALSO INFORMED ABOUT ANOTHER AMENDMENT UNDER THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (REGISTRATION)(AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1976.

THIS AMENDMENT EXEMPTS FROM AD VALOREM CHARGES TWO MORE CATEGORIES OF GOODS, NAMELY AIRCRAFT SPARES, IMPORTED OR EXPORTED BY AIRLINES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OR REPAIR OF THEIR AIRCRAFT= OR FOR NON-PROFIT-MAKING EXCHANGES BETWEEN AIRLINES FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL SERVICES= AND PARTS IMPORTED BY AIRLINES AND SHIPPING COMPANIES FOR THE REPAIR, OR MAINTENANCE, OF THEIR FREIGHT CONTAINERS.

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LETTERS DESTROYED IN POSTING BOX FIRE
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THE POST OFFICE REPORTED TODAY THAT A NUMBER OF LETTERS WERE DAMAGED OR TOTALLY DESTROYED WHEN A FIRE BROKE OUT IN THE POSTING BOX ON THE CORNER OF ICE HOUSE STREET AND DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL SHORTLY AFTER 9 P.M. LAST FRIDAY (JANUARY 23).

A SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE REASON FOR THE FIRE WAS NOT KNOWN.

HE ASKED PEOPLE WHO POSTED LETTERS IN THIS BOX BETWEEN 6.30 P.M. AND 9.09 P.M. LAST FRIDAY TO CONTACT THE SENIOR CONTROLLER OF POSTS (HONG KONG) ON 5-232516 TO VERIFY WHETHER THEIR POSTINGS ARE INTACT.

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