



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, September 6, 1972

## URGENT ACTION NEEDED TO CURB RISE IN SERIOUS FACTORY FIRES

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The head of the Fire Prevention Bureau, Mr. F. Jackson, today called on industrial managements to take urgent action to put a stop to the spiralling rise in serious fires in factories.

He noted that since 1965-66, industrial fire losses had jumped from \$3.5 million to last year's \$72 million.

Mr. Jackson put the blame on "apathy, sheer neglect, carelessness and wilful disregard in respect of requirements."

Many industrial premises "flagrantly ignored requirements of the Building Authority, the Fire Services and the Labour Department, resulting in heavy losses," he said.

"There is at least one known case of plans not being submitted to any Department. The resultant total loss of these premises cost several million dollars."

Mr. Jackson also called on insurance officials to institute, wherever possible, more frequent inspections to ensure that once the policy is issued and the premium paid, its clauses are not "blatantly" ignored.

Minimum fire losses in Hong Kong, he said, were usually the outcome of good housekeeping and "with the Clean Hong Kong campaign under way at the moment, what better time to put premises in order?"

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He offered the services of the Fire Prevention Bureau, which is on hand 24 hours a day to assist with enquiries.

"The Fire Prevention Inspection Officers," Mr. Jackson said, "will continue to carry out inspections to abate fire hazards no matter where they are found, but it is up to the responsible people in management to ensure that we do not have to serve a Fire Hazard Abatement Notice."

He said the use of staircases, corridors, gangways and any old corner for storing raw materials and finished goods presented untold hazards.

Electrical faults rank high among the causes of fire and it appeared that installation inspection and testing was not given a serious or even a second thought, Mr. Jackson said.

Unprotected conductors, overloading of installations, ageing installations and overloaded fuses, also gave rise to many fires.

Mr. Jackson said that late calls for assistance figured prominently amongst the large losses, indicating delays in calling the Fire Services.

"During the year, calls to fire both in urban areas and the New Territories were on the average attended well within the scheduled attendance time and water supplies at all incidents were more than adequate," he said.

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of the statement by Mr. Jackson are distributed separately in GIS press boxes this evening.

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ADDITIONAL GRANTS FROM LOTTERIES FUND

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More than \$370,000 has been allocated from the Lotteries Fund to assist five voluntary agencies carrying out work in special education, family planning, ambulance service and youth activities.

The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups obtained a grant of \$38,500 to purchase additional outdoor and sailing equipment for its training camp at Tai Mong Tsai and its youth hostel on Lamma Island.

The facilities available at present are insufficient to cope with the large number of young people using the camps.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has received a grant of \$21,700 to help meet the cost of expedition equipment and 70 composite camping units to provide an adequate standard of training and assessment.

A total of \$118,000 has been granted to the Ebenezer School and Home for the Blind to meet the cost of renovating its gymnasium.

The original grant for the renovation was \$96,000. But due to an increase in building costs since the estimate last year, the Social Welfare Advisory Committee has recommended a further grant of \$22,000.

Also as a result of increased prices, the St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade has received a further grant of \$31,500 to the original grant of \$130,500 to purchase three replacement ambulances.

The Family Planning Association has been granted \$30,500 for the purchase of an additional mini-bus to carry staff, visitors and stocks to the outlying clinics in the New Territories.

At present the one mini-bus owned by the Association is inadequate for carrying staff as the clinics are scattered over a wide area.

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PARENTS NEGLECTING ANTI-MEASLES CAMPAIGN

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Figures released today by the Medical and Health Department show that during the fourth week of the current anti-measles vaccination campaign, only 1,631 doses were administered.

Of the total, 299 doses were administered to children on the Island, 831 in Kowloon, and 519 in the New Territories.

Since the beginning of the campaign on August 8, and despite widespread publicity, only 6,764 children have been immunised against the disease.

"This is not good at all," said Dr. J.K. Craig, Acting Director of Medical and Health Services, "and the relatively poor response suggests that despite the efforts of all concerned, the success hoped for is not being achieved.

"There are five more weeks to go, and I would like to urge parents with children between nine months and five years to heed our warning that measles could kill, and to have their offspring protected at the earliest possible moment."

He repeated the advice given several times during this campaign that measles was not "inevitable." It was not true that children had to suffer this disease as part of the ills of childhood. Measles could be avoided by vaccination.

"There are facilities in all the districts, both urban and rural, for speedy immunisation," Dr. Craig told parents. "Please have your children protected. It is in their interest, first and foremost. But you will also be helping Hong Kong as a whole, because your gesture could help prevent any future outbreak of the disease."

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CONNAUGHT ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME NEARS COMPLETION

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Motorists will soon find it more convenient to drive along Connaught Road Central.

The final road works on the section between Ice House Street and Murray Road will begin on Friday evening.

Work will be carried on throughout the night in an attempt to avoid traffic congestion.

A spokesman for the Transport Department said temporary traffic restrictions will be imposed to facilitate the road works and resurfacing.

With the completion of the work on September 24 Connaught Road Central will provide four lanes of traffic in each direction from Rumsey Street to Murray Road.

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SPECIAL SHIPMENT SCHEME FOR EXPORTS OF COTTON TO THE U.S.

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The Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Jack Cater, announced today that details of quantities available in each category under the special shipment scheme for exports of all cotton, man-made fibre and wool textiles to the U.S. will be announced in a notice to exporters tomorrow (September 7).

Trade Associations and companies on the Commerce and Industry Department's mailing list for Notice to Exporters, Series 2 (U.S.A.) will receive copies of the Notice shortly. However people who wish to seek advance notice of its contents are invited to obtain copies from the Department's Textiles Licensing Office on 2nd Floor, Fire Brigade Building, Hong Kong tomorrow (Thursday) or contact the following officers of the Commerce and Industry Department:-

Mr. P.K.F. Chok - Assistant Trade Officer  
Tel. No. H-447888

Miss L.K.Y. Chui - Assistant Trade Officer  
Tel. No. H-447888

Mr. L. Chung - Industry Assistant  
Tel. No. H-448686

Mr. H.S. Fong - Industry Assistant  
Tel. No. H-239625

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