



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, December 27, 1973

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Further processing of Kowloon Tsai fire victims for re-housing	1
Economy measures by Prisons Department to save fuel	4
Temporary water cuts in Kowloon City and Wong Tai Sin	5
Eight heroes to be commended for rescuing people from the sea	6
Commendation for worker and fireman for rescuing woman from fire	7
New Year Day is a statutory holiday for workers	8

Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food
commodities

Release time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, December 27, 1973

- 1 -

FURTHER PROCESSING OF FIRE VICTIMS ON SATURDAY

Many Impostors Trying To Cash In On Fire tragedy

The Housing Department today called on people who lost their homes in the Kowloon Tsai squatter fire on Christmas Day to report to the Tai Hang Tung Community Centre in Tong Yam Street on Saturday (December 29) for further processing of their claims.

Notices telling the victims of the exercise are being posted at all eight temporary accommodation centres, the Sham Shui Po City District Office and the police mobile reporting centre at Tai Hang Tung.

In the squatter fire, about 350 structures in Man Heung Yuen, Man San Lane and Sai Man Lane in the Kowloon Tsai area were destroyed. A total of 616 families, comprising 2,507 people, have been registered homeless.

The further processing exercise will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday and will probably last throughout the day. Only the head of the household or an adult representative from each family should attend the personal processing exercise.

They should bring along with them their identity card, emergency relief card issued by the Social Welfare Department, the birth certificate of all members of their families and any other document which can help them to substantiate their claims.

They are also advised to bring some warm clothing and food with them in view of the time needed to attend the large number of people turning up for the exercise.

Mr. Leslie Pogue, Assistant Director (Operations) of the Housing Department, said that the exercise was a very important step to weed out impostors.

/We have

Thursday, December 27, 1973

- 2 -

"We have confirmed that there is quite a number of impostors mixing up with the genuine victims," Mr. Pogue said.

"These people are trying to cheat the department to give them public housing or resite accommodation as well as cash allowance from the Emergency Relief Fund.

"By checking through our records we have been able to find out that 45 families who have already been rehoused have turned up and registered themselves as victims.

"One family who is now living in Sau Mau Ping Estate even split up its members and registered as two separate families."

Mr. Pogue explained that this was the main reason for carrying out further processing and he assured that arrangements to allocate licensed area sites or public housing units to the genuine victims would be made as soon as final processing was completed.

He said all those occupying surveyed structures in Man Heung Yuen and Sai Man Lane which had been earmarked for clearance would be offered public housing.

"In line with current policy, people living in tolerated structures in Man San Lane will also be offered public housing," he added. Occupants of unsurveyed huts will be accommodated in licensed areas.

Mr. Pogue went on: "Cash allowances from the Emergency Relief Fund, administered by the Social Welfare Department, will be given to those allocated licensed area sites to help them to meet the building and re-equipment costs.

/"Those eligible

Thursday, December 27, 1973

- 3 -

"Those eligible for public housing will only get the re-equipment allowances."

Distribution of the cash allowances will be made as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Mr. H.K. Chan, City District Officer of Sham Shui Po, commended the public-spiritedness and enthusiasm of the 100-odd students and volunteers who sacrificed their holiday yesterday -- Boxing Day -- to help in relief work.

Among them were about 30 girls from Tak Nga College in Yau Yat Chuen who cancelled their Christmas party and called at the CDO to offer their services.

Mr. Chan said the students and volunteers worked throughout the day helping sort out various relief articles, processing Fat Choy Fund recipients, cleaning up the temporary accommodation centres, baby sitting for mothers, serving food and other work.

Each of the estimated 2,500 fire victims, Mr. Chan said, received \$20 yesterday from the Fat Choy Fund.

He also expressed his appreciation to the people who generously advanced loans to be distributed to the victims, as the banks were closed yesterday.

Since the fire on Christmas Day, Mr. Chan said, more than \$25,000 in cash donations were received, including \$10,000 from the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, \$10,000 from the Chiu Chau Chamber of Commerce and \$4,000 from the Wong Tai Sin Sik Sik Yuen.

These would be distributed to the victims soon, he said.

All of the victims have been given warm clothing, blankets and quilts, and other daily necessities and are receiving two hot meals a day. He pointed out that there was adequate washing facilities at the temporary accommodation centres and hot water was supplied to all victims at the centres both in the morning and evening.

Mr. Chan re-iterated that any of the fire victims who needed long term relief could approach the Social Welfare Department or his office.

Thursday, December 27, 1973

- 4 -

PRISONS JOIN DRIVE TO SAVE FUEL

A number of economy measures have been introduced by the Prisons Department, including an earlier "lights out for prisoners and inmates", as part of the government's drive to cut back on the use of fuel.

A working party was appointed within the department to achieve maximum savings without jeopardising security.

Among the measures which have been implemented are a reduction in the wattage of the cell and dormitory light bulbs; a ban on unauthorised electrical equipment in any mess or barrack accommodation; all lights in cells, dormitories, offices and workshops to be turned off when not occupied; and all machinery to be switched off when not in use.

In addition, all lights required at night have been clearly marked, and only these are permitted to be switched on. In all Prisons Department institutes the "lights out" has been advanced by 30 minutes.

Instructions have also been issued to regulate the supply of fuel for such things as cooking and bathing. The distribution of fuel to messes is being limited to minimum daily requirements, and meal hours for staff have been readjusted wherever possible to minimise consumption of fuel in staff messes.

In order to keep a check on the situation, each Prisons Department institute will submit monthly returns to headquarters giving a breakdown of the various fuels used.

/The Commissioner

Thursday, December 27, 1973

- 5 -

The Commissioner of Prisons, Mr. T.G. Garner, said today his department was doing everything possible to reduce fuel consumption. It was too early at this stage to assess the effectiveness of these measures, but he was certain it would be well in excess of the government's target figure of a 15 per cent cut back.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WATER CUTS IN KOWLOON

Water supply to a number of premises in Kowloon City and Wong Tai Sin will be interrupted for five hours tomorrow and Saturday morning to facilitate tests for leakage in the districts.

In Kowloon City, the temporary stoppage will start from 1 a.m. tomorrow (Friday) and will affect premises bounded by Argyle Street, Peace Avenue, Ho Man Tin Street, Princess Margaret Road, Ho Man Tin Hill Road, and Soares Avenue.

That in Wong Tai Sin will begin at 1 a.m. on Saturday (December 29) and will affect premises bounded by Fu Mei Street, Wang Tau Hom North Road, Wang Tau Hom East Road, Fu Yue Street, and Wang Tau Hom Estate Blocks 17 to 20, including Junction Road and Fu Mei Street Resite Area.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6

Thursday, December 27, 1973

- 6 -

COMMENDATIONS FOR RESCUE HEROES

Eight members of the public and a Marine Police Constable will receive Certificates of Commendation tomorrow (Friday) from the Director of Marine, Mr. A. Fletcher, in recognition of their courage and public spirit in rescuing people from the sea.

The recipients are: Messrs. Chung Kam-shui, Chan For-kan, Chan Kam-ying, To Chau, Leung Choi-hei and Chan Kai-fat, all crew members of the Hong Kong and Yaumati Ferry Company; Constable Kong Chuen of the Marine Police; Mr. Tsui For-kan, owner of a lighter; and Mr. Lee Kam-shui, a sailor.

They are all commended for rescuing people who tried to commit suicide or who fell into the harbour during the past year. In addition to the certificates, the eight members of the public will receive monetary awards of \$100 each.

.....

Note to Editors: You are invited to have the presentation ceremony covered. It will start at 10 a.m. tomorrow in the Examination Hall of the Marine Department on the 10th floor of the Rumsey Street Multi-Storey Carpark, Connaught Road, Central.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7

Thursday, December 27, 1973

- 7 -

WORKER AND FIREMAN COMMENDED

A metal worker, Mr. Lee Dai-kau, who displayed great initiative and public-spiritedness in rescuing a woman trapped by fire last month, will receive the Director of Fire Services Commendation and a cash award for his bravery.

Mr. Lee went to the rescue of the woman after her kitchen caught fire and she became trapped in a precarious position on a sixth floor window in Wan Lok Street, Kowloon, on November 14. With the help of firemen the woman was later hauled to safety.

Mr. Lee will receive his commendation from Mr. H.T.J. Hutchins, Chief Fire Officer of Kowloon, at a ceremony at 11 a.m. on Saturday (December 29) at the Tsim Sha Tsui Fire Station.

At the same time, a fireman, Mr. Leung Hun-biu, will be presented with the Chief Fire Officer's Commendation for his part in rescuing a man in another fire in Nathan Road on November 27.

The rescued person, Mr. Luk Siu-wan, has donated a sum of money to the Fire Services Welfare Fund as a token of his gratitude and will be attending the presentation ceremony on Saturday to meet his rescuer.

.....

Note to Editors: You are invited to send your representative to cover the occasion. The presentation starts at 11 a.m. on Saturday (December 29) at the Tsim Sha Tsui Fire Station.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/8

Thursday, December 27, 1973

- 8 -

NEW YEAR'S DAY IS A STATUTORY HOLIDAY

The Commissioner of Labour, Mr. I.R. Price, today reminded employers that next Tuesday (January 1) is one of the six statutory holidays to which all non-manual employees earning not more than \$1,500 a month and all manual employees irrespective of the amount of their earnings are entitled under the Employment Ordinance.

"It is important to note that the ordinance does not make a distinction between industrial and non-industrial employees," Mr. Price said.

To qualify for pay on the coming statutory holiday, which must be granted in addition to the four rest days a month provided by the same ordinance, an employee must have been employed continuously by his employer for three months or more immediately preceding the statutory holiday.

An employee who is not so qualified must be given a holiday but he is not entitled to be paid, although an employer may voluntarily agree to pay him.

Any employee or employer who is in doubt about his rights or obligations regarding the statutory holiday or holiday pay may consult officers of the Labour Relations Service at telephone numbers 5-282523, 12-422096, 3-205638 and 3-898520.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Thursday, December 27, 1973

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Thursday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		<u>Average</u>
See Mew - old crop	Good	1.64
- new crop		1.72
S.C.Jion - old crop	Good	1.66
Po Hgai	Good	1.42
Chu Cho	Good	1.22
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	-	-
10-15% Broken	-	-
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.45
A1 Super	Good	1.37
Whole Glutinous	Limited	1.52
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.62
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	1.52
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	-	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	-	-

/Supplies and

Thursday, December 27, 1973

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Limited	5.4	3.0	4.3
Big-Eyes	Good	2.6	0.6	1.8
Squid	Limited	5.8	2.5	4.5
Hair-Tails	Good	1.6	0.7	1.0
Lizard Fishes	Normal	2.85	1.0	1.8
Croakers	Normal	1.8	0.6	1.3
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	3.2	2.1	2.6
Melon Coat	Limited	2.7	1.4	1.8
Brears	Normal	4.5	2.2	3.5
Yellow Belly	Good	1.2	0.65	1.0
Mackerels	Good	3.2	2.2	2.5
Red Goat Fish	Good	2.5	0.55	1.5
Fork-Tail	Good	1.3	0.65	0.95
Horse-Head	Limited	5.2	2.8	4.0
Melon Seed	Normal	2.8	1.4	2.3
Poufrets	Scarce	8.5	6.7	7.0
Garoupas	Limited	7.5	5.0	6.0
Yellow Croaker	-	-	-	-

/Supplies and

Thursday, December 27, 1973

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Limited	2.8	1.2	2.0
White cabbage	Normal	1.0	0.4	0.7
Chinese Lettuce	Normal	1.0	0.3	0.7
Chinese Kale	Normal	1.4	0.4	0.9
Spring onion	Normal	1.2	0.4	0.8
Spinach	Normal	1.8	0.8	1.4
Water cross	Normal	1.4	0.4	0.9
Leaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	1.0	0.35	0.6
Tomato	Normal	1.6	0.8	1.2

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>(\$/ picul)</u>
Pork	Good	(Average) 285