



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Sunday, April 1, 1973

NEW TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS

The Director of Royal Observatory reminded members of the public today that the new tropical cyclone warning signal system was now in use.

The former Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8 signals have been replaced by a uniformed No. 8 signal accompanied with directional denotations in both oral and written weather reports.

No. 5 signal has been renamed No. 8NW signal. Its symbol is an upward triangle and the lights are white-green-green.

No. 6 signal has become No. 8SW. The symbol is an inverted triangle and the lights are green-white-white.

No. 7 signal has been renumbered No. 8NE. The symbol is two vertical upward triangles and the lights are green-green-white.

No. 8 signal now reads No. 8SE. The symbol is two vertical inverted triangles and the lights are white-white-green.

All these signals are used as warnings of gales and storms from the various directions. "Gale" means winds with average mean speed of 34-47 knots, and "storm" means winds with average mean speed between 48-63 knots.

The other signals, that is Nos. 1, 3, 9 and 10, remain unchanged and are still in use.

/The Director

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The Director of Royal Observatory said the new warning signal system came into effect at the beginning of this year after consultations with various departments and organisations concerned.

Apart from simplification, he said, the new system would eliminate public misunderstanding of typhoon signals caused by numerical order.

"As a matter of fact, the old Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8 signals were only used to differentiate directions of winds with same force," he explained.

"As far as these four signals are concerned, wind speed and the likelihood of danger did not correspond with the numerical order.

New System

"We hope that the new system will remove public misunderstanding of the warning signals, and thus minimising danger and loss caused by tropical cyclones," the Director said.

The Government Information Services has now prepared a pamphlet entitled "Preliminary Information on Hong Kong's New Tropical Cyclone Warning Signals". It gives a simple description and definition of the new warning signals.

Further details of the new system have also been printed on separate information cards. These cards tell the public what step of precaution should be taken when various signals are hoisted.

They also contain a map for plotting tropical cyclone tracks and should be useful on every desk.

Copies of these publications are now available free of charge at all City District Offices, New Territories District Offices, the Marine Department, the Education Department and the Government Information Services.

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Note to Editors:

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Note to Editors: Copies of the pamphlet, "Preliminary Information on Hong Kong's New Tropical Cyclone Warning Signals," and the information card on the warning signals are available for collection from the G.I.S. press room.

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Release Time: 1,00 p.m.