



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1977

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42 DIED IN FIRE LAST YEAR

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HONG KONG'S FIREMEN COVERED A TOTAL OF NEARLY 2.5 MILLION MILES -- A DISTANCE 93 TIMES AROUND THE WORLD -- IN RESPONSE TO FIRE AND RESCUE CALLS LAST YEAR.

THERE WERE 9,383 FIRE CALLS LAST YEAR, 2,013 MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE FIRES CLAIMED A TOLL OF 42 LIVES, AND CAUSED INJURIES TO 587 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 41 FIREMEN.

IN TERMS OF VALUE, THE FIRE LOSSES LAST YEAR, WHICH WERE REPORTED BY INSURANCE COMPANIES BUT EXCLUDING THE UNINSURED LOSSES, AMOUNTED TO \$58.5 MILLION.

COMMENTING ON THE INCREASE IN FIRES REPORTED LAST YEAR, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID IT WAS A DISAPPOINTING RETURN FOR THE TIME AND EFFORTS SPENT IN FIRE PREVENTION PUBLICITY BY THE DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH KAIFONGS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.

HE SAID: +ALTHOUGH THE UNUSUALLY LONG SPELL OF LOW HUMIDITY DURING THE WINTER MONTHS WAS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN THE INCREASED INCIDENCE OF FIRES, ESPECIALLY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, THE MAIN CAUSE IS THE UNIVERSAL OF CARELESSNESS OVER SIMPLE MATTERS.+

HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT DESPITE THE DENSITY OF POPULATION AND ROAD CONGESTION IN HONG KONG, THE LOSSES IN VALUE AND LIVES ARE STILL BELOW THOSE OF OTHER MAJOR CITIES.

+THE MAIN REASON FOR THIS REMARKABLE FACT, IS THE SKILL AND DETERMINATION OF HONG KONG FIREMEN AND AMBULANCEMEN WHO FIGHT FIRES AND AID THE SICK AND INJURED THROUGHOUT DAY AND NIGHT UNDER THE MOST APPALLING CONDITIONS IMAGINABLE.+

AS IN THE PAST YEAR, THE LARGEST NUMBER OF FIRES WAS CAUSED BY CARELESS DISPOSAL OF MATCHES AND CIGARETTE ENDS (3,241) AND ELECTRICAL FAULTS (1,632). THE TWO CAUSES ALONE ACCOUNTED FOR NEARLY 52 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL FIRE CALLS.

THE SERVICE RESPONDED TO ANOTHER 344 FIRES, INVOLVING OVERTURNED KEROSENE STOVES, 311 FIRES BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY CHILDREN PLAYING WITH MATCHES, AND 246 FIRES RESULTED FROM UNATTENDED COOKING STOVES.

JANUARY WAS THE BUSIEST MONTH WHEN FIREMEN DEALT WITH 1,454 CALLS, FOLLOWED BY NOVEMBER WITH 1,086 CALLS.

DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HANDLED 3,574 SPECIAL SERVICE CALLS, INCLUDING TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, PEOPLE TRAPPED OR SHUT IN LIFTS, DROWNINGS, HANGINGS AND OTHER MISHAPS. A TOTAL OF 316 PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND 1,349 PEOPLE WERE INJURED IN THESE ACCIDENTS.

THE DEPARTMENT, IN ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE CONTINUOUSLY ITS EFFICIENCY IN FIRE-FIGHTING, HAS ACQUIRED 25 ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT APPLIANCES AND UNITS OF VARIOUS KINDS DURING THE YEAR. AMONG THE MORE IMPORTANT ONES IT RECEIVED WAS THE VERSATILE, 91-FOOT ELEVATED PLATFORM WHICH PROVED TO BE VERY VALUABLE IN SAVING MANY LIVES.

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SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD TO BE WIDENED
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THE SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN TEXACO ROAD AND THE EASTERN END OF TUEN MUN ROAD AT CHAI WAN KOK WILL BE WIDENED SHORTLY TO COPE WITH THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN TRAFFIC IN TSUEN WAN AREA.

TENDERS FOR THE WORK ARE BEING INVITED BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MR. CHEN SHAO-CHI, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE P.W.D.'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE, SAID : +THIS SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD HAS FOUR TRAFFIC LANES. IT IS AN IMPORTANT CIRCULATORY ROAD IN TSUEN WAN AND A THROUGH ROUTE FOR TRAFFIC PROCEEDING BEYOND TSUEN WAN.

+WITH THE COMPLETION OF STAGE ONE OF TUEN MUN ROAD EARLY NEXT YEAR AND THE DEVELOPMENT TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE NORTHERN PART OF TSUEN WAN, TRAFFIC IN THE AREA WILL INCREASE CONSIDERABLY.+

TO COPE WITH THE INCREASE IN TRAFFIC, HE SAID, THIS ROAD SECTION WOULD BE WIDENED FROM DUAL TWO-LANE TO DUAL THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY, MAKING CASTLE PEAK ROAD SIX LANES THROUGHOUT ITS LENGTH FROM KWAI CHUNG ROAD TO TUEN MUN ROAD.

WORK ON THIS PROJECT WOULD BEGIN IN DECEMBER AND WOULD TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

IT WOULD INCLUDE THE STRENGTHENING OF THE EXISTING ROAD BRIDGE OVER THE NULLAH AT TAI CHUNG ROAD TO ACCOMMODATE THE WIDENED CARRIAGEWAY AND FOOTPATHS, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A STEEL FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS CASTLE PEAK ROAD ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE NULLAH.

MR. CHEN SAID THAT DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, FOUR TRAFFIC LANES, TWO IN EACH DIRECTION, WOULD BE MAINTAINED AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES WOULD BE PROVIDED THROUGHOUT THE CONTRACT PERIOD.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND THE WORK WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES DIVISION OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE ON BEHALF OF THE TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.

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MUSIC CONSULTANT ASSUMES DUTY
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MR. DAVID STONE HAS TAKEN UP THE APPOINTMENT OF MUSIC CONSULTANT FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL FROM BRITAIN.

MR. STONE IS A DISTINGUISHED VIOLINIST AND CONDUCTOR, AND HAD VISITED HONG KONG ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AS AN EXAMINER FOR THE ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC.

AS MUSIC CONSULTANT, MR. STONE IS WORKING WITH THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR, MR. GORDON SIU.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY IN THE G.I.S. THEATRE, 5TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, DURING WHICH MR. STONE WILL BE PLEASED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM PRESS REPRESENTATIVES. MR. SIU, WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

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SWD TO HOLD COURSES ON SOCIAL SKILLS FOR YOUTHS
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THE YOUTH WORK UNIT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ORGANISING A COURSE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE WAYS TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE AND WIN FRIENDS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE COURSE -- SOCIAL EFFECTIVENESS TRAINING COURSE -- WAS SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 25 WITH THE AIM OF HELPING THEM TO DEVELOP SOCIAL SPEAKING SKILLS SO AS TO BETTER ADAPT TO COMMUNITY LIFE.

THE COURSE IS MADE UP OF SEVEN THREE-HOUR SESSIONS TO BE HELD EVERY FRIDAY BETWEEN NOVEMBER 11 AND DECEMBER 30 AT THE KWUN TONG GOVERNMENT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, THIRD FLOOR, TUNG YAN STREET.

IT WILL INCLUDE SUCH TOPICS AS WAYS TO EXPRESS ONESELF, HOW TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH STRANGERS, TECHNIQUES OF PHRASING ONE'S COMPLIMENTS AND CRITICISMS, AND THE CORRECT MANNER OF ACCEPTING OTHER PEOPLE'S ADVICE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE COURSE WOULD BE FORMED INTO DISCUSSION GROUPS IN ORDER TO AROUSE THEIR INTEREST. THERE WOULD BE PRACTICAL EXERCISES AS WELL.

THE COURSE IS OPEN TO ALL YOUTHS WITH FORM 4 OR ABOVE EDUCATION. APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH WORK UNIT, 405, NATHAN ROAD, TOP FLOOR, KOWLOON CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING. THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS OCTOBER 29.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS CONFERENCE ON MOUNTAIN CLIMBING SAFETY
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THE CIVIL AID SERVICES WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON +SAFETY MEASURES IN MOUNTAIN CLIMBING+ AT ITS KOWLOON TRAINING CENTRE, 204 ARGYLE STREET, AT 9 A.M. ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 25).

THE PRESS CONFERENCE IS ARRANGED TO SEEK THE CO-OPERATION OF THE PRESS IN PUBLICISING THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY IN HIKING AND MOUNTAIN CLIMBING AS WINTER IS THE FAVOURITE SEASON FOR THESE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE EQUIPMENT WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A MOUNTAIN RESCUE DEMONSTRATION IN BEACON HILL.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND A PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE AND THE DEMONSTRATION.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE ADVISED TO WEAR CASUAL CLOTHING AND RUBBER SOLE SHOES AS THEY ARE EXPECTED TO WALK A SHORT DISTANCE ON ROUGH GROUND BEFORE REACHING THE DEMONSTRATION SITE.

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NEW WATER SUPPLY PERIODS IN SHA TIN AREA
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NEW PERIODS OF WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN A SECTION OF TAI PO ROAD BETWEEN FO TAN TSUEN AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY WILL BE INTRODUCED ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 24) EVENING AND THE FOLLOWING MORNING TO FACILITATE WORK ON DIVERTING A WATER MAIN IN TAI PO ROAD.

THE SUPPLY PERIOD ON MONDAY EVENING WILL BE FROM 4 P.M. TO 9 P.M. WHILST THAT ON TUESDAY MORNING WILL BE FROM 8 A.M. TO NOON. NORMAL SUPPLY WILL RESUME ON TUESDAY EVENING.

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FIRING PRACTICE
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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CASTLE PEAK RANGE FOR FIVE DAYS STARTING ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 24).

THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS DANGEROUS TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN THE FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIME OF FIRING PRACTICE.

THE PRACTICE TIMES ARE :-

<u>DATE</u>		<u>HOURS</u>	
OCTOBER 24	(MONDAY)	8.30 A.M.	- 6 P.M.
OCTOBER 25	(TUESDAY)	8 A.M.	- 10 P.M.
OCTOBER 26	(WEDNESDAY)	8 A.M.	- 6 P.M.
OCTOBER 27	(THURSDAY)	8 A.M.	- 10 P.M.
OCTOBER 28	(FRIDAY)	8 A.M.	- 4.30 P.M.

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