



Fire Prevention Tips for Scaffolding on Building External Wall

A recent fire which involved the scaffolding on the external wall of a building and resulted in injuries and loss of property has aroused public awareness on the fire safety issues arising from building maintenance works. In this regard, the Fire Services Department would like to appeal to members from various sectors in the community to be vigilant of fire safety, and in particular to take the following fire protection measures:

Incorporated Owners/Property Management Companies:

- Urge the contractors to avoid depositing building materials within **means of escape** and at the building entrance areas and to clear abandoned building materials or debris as soon as possible.
- If the major maintenance works to be carried out in the building require the erection of scaffolding on the building external wall, please **inform the fire station nearby** to facilitate the Fire Services Department to formulate a contingency plan where necessary.
- Encourage owners and occupiers of buildings to attend **fire prevention talks** and participate in **fire drills**.

Contractors:

- Suitable protective screen of fire retardant material should be provided on the face of the scaffold to confine falling objects. If tarpaulin is being used as protective screen, its fire retardant characteristic should meet the requirements of BS 5867-2:2008 (Type B performance requirements) or other equivalent national or international standards or provisions.
- Store the building materials (such as bamboo poles, fences and wooden boards) properly and put adequate **fire extinguishers** in the vicinity.
- Ensure that the construction workers do not **smoke** on the scaffold.
- When carrying out **welding** and **cutting** works on the scaffold, do take the necessary fire protection measures and pay attention to the flying ember caused by such works to

prevent fire.

- Do not store or use **dangerous goods** (such as paint and thinner) above the exempted quantities and take extra care when handling fire. Unused dangerous goods must be kept in a ventilated and lockable store room/metal cabinet.

Owners or Occupiers:

- Do not leave **rubbish** on the scaffold.
- Do not throw **cigarette ends** or **rubbish** out of windows.
- Keep the **windows** closed as much as possible. In case of fire on the scaffold on the building external wall, this can prevent dense smoke and fire from spreading into the flats.
- Participate in **fire drills** proactively and keep the **escape route** in mind. In case of fire, bring the **three useful items: mobile phone, door keys and towel**; keep calm and escape by staircase when it is safe to do so. If there is smoke in the staircase, escape by another staircase and cover your nose and mouth with the towel; if there is no other staircase, return to your flat with the door keys for safe shelter and dial 999 with your mobile phone to inform the Police or the Fire Services Department of your location.

Management Office:

- Step up **inspections on the public area of the building** to ensure that the means of escape are free from obstruction, the **smoke stop doors** are always closed and the **exit doors** on the ground floor and the roof of the building are not locked.

For any related enquiries, please contact Support Division of Fire Safety Command at 2170 9502.

Fire Services Department

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