

Permanent Secretary for Security reviews Fire Services passing-out parade (with photos)

The Permanent Secretary for Security, Mrs Marion Lai, reviewed the 181st Fire Services passing-out parade for 24 station officers, 30 senior firemen of the Mobilising and Communications Group, 66 firemen and 43 ambulancemen at the Fire and Ambulance Services Academy today (March 2).

Speaking at the parade, Mrs Lai said, "This year marks the Fire Services Department (FSD)'s 150th anniversary. The past one and a half century has seen continuous improvement of the FSD's equipment and organisation, as well as professionalisation in its various areas of work."

Mrs Lai noted that the FSD set up the Mountain Search and Rescue Team (MSRT) in response to rising public interest in mountaineering activities in recent years. Apart from familiarising themselves with the terrain of mountains in Hong Kong, members of the MSRT have acquired advanced knowledge of field orientation, rope rescue techniques and large-area mountain search and rescue strategy. The FSD has also set up the High Angle Rescue Team (HART) to carry out high angle rescue operations at cliffs and vertical situations. All members of the HART have received training on specialised techniques and have obtained internationally recognised qualifications, she added.

Mrs Lai commended the FSD personnel for their professionalism and efficiency during the rescue operation after a bus crash on Tai Po Road last month with a large number of casualties. "FSD personnel had to race against time to rescue passengers from the narrow compartment of the overturned bus while ambulance personnel provided prompt on-site triage and emergency medical treatment, and conveyed the wounded to hospitals within a short period of time," she said.

Mrs Lai also encouraged the graduates to do their best and support each other. She said, "The Security Bureau will continue to support the FSD and its personnel in pursuing the department's mission of 'Serving with courage, passion and commitment' for the common good of Hong Kong."

The parade was followed by a demonstration of firefighting and rescue techniques by the graduates. The 163 graduates will be posted to the Fire Services Communications Centre as well as various fire stations and ambulance depots.

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The Permanent Secretary for Security, Mrs Marion Lai, reviews the 181st Fire Services passing-out parade at the Fire and Ambulance Services Academy today (March 2).



The Permanent Secretary for Security, Mrs Marion Lai, reviewed the 181st Fire Services passing-out parade at the Fire and Ambulance Services Academy today (March 2). Photo shows Mrs Lai (right) presenting the Best Recruit award to a graduate.



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