

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB116

(Question Serial No. 2187)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the compliance rates for annual inspections of fire service installations, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the compliance rates for statutory annual inspections of residential fire service installations (e.g. alarm bells, fire hydrants, smoke stop doors) across the territory in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by the ages of residential buildings (in increments of 10 years);
2. the numbers of cases involving fire service installations that were found defective or shut down in the past 3 years, the number of fire service installations that have not yet been restored to normal operation and the percentage thereof; and
3. the respective numbers of advisory letters and warning letters issued to offenders, as well as the numbers of prosecutions instituted in court in respect of cases of fire service installations that were found defective or shut down in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

1. If a fire service installation owner is found to have contravened Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations (Cap. 95B) (i.e. the owner of any fire service installation or equipment (FSI) which is installed in any premises shall have such FSI inspected by a registered contractor at least once in every 12 months), the Fire Services Department (FSD) will institute prosecution against that owner. The numbers of prosecutions instituted by the FSD for the above contravention in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--|------|------|-------|
| Number of prosecutions instituted for contravention involving failure to conduct annual inspections of fire service installations* | 3 | 963 | 1 361 |

* The FSD does not maintain separate statistics categorised by the ages of residential buildings. Over the past 3 years, the FSD has continued to step up inspections of FSI, and this has led to a significant increase in prosecutions since 2024.

2. According to Regulation 8(1)(a) of the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations (Cap. 95B), the owner of any FSI shall keep such FSI in efficient working order at all times. The number of cases involving defective fire service installations received by the FSD in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

| Year | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Cases of defective fire service installations | 5 905 | 6 026 | 9 731 |
| Number and percentage of cases with restoration to normal operation completed or under active follow-up by fire services contractors | 5 859 (99.2%) | 5 428 (90.1%) | 7 049* (72.4%) |

* For cases received in the second half of 2025, the FSD has issued advisory letters / warning letters, and relevant enforcement actions are still ongoing.

3. The Fire Protection Facilities Supervision Division (FPFSD) under the FSD conducts inspections and takes follow-up actions on FSI in buildings across Hong Kong. The relevant figures for the FPFSD's enforcement over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Issuance of advisory letters | 15 674 | 23 198 | 26 903 |
| Issuance of warning letters | 558 | 1 655 | 3 973 |
| Institution of prosecution | 135 | 1 090 | 1 585 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB117

(Question Serial No. 1643)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Government indicated that it was conducting a comprehensive review of the provision of personal equipment of fire personnel and other fire service equipment, with a view to enhancing rescue efficiency through new technologies. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What items in the provision of personal equipment of fire personnel and other fire service equipment did the Government replace or upgrade in the past 3 years? What are the specific details of the items concerned; and were any newly introduced fire service products included among those items? If yes, what are their names, functions and purposes for their introduction; and what was the actual expenditure for each of the items replaced or upgraded?
2. What items in the provision of personal equipment of fire personnel and other fire service equipment is the Government planning to replace or upgrade this year? What are the specific details and estimated expenditure of each item; and is there any study or plan to introduce any new technologies or new equipment?
3. What new measures were launched or what existing programmes were improved by the Government to enhance the live-fire and rescue training of frontline fire personnel in the past 3 years? What are the details (such as the course contents and the number of personnel trained) and the expenditure involved? What are the details and estimated expenditure for the work concerned this year?
4. What measures were put in place by the Government to enhance psychological training and support for fire personnel in the past 3 years? What are the details and expenditure involved? What are the details and estimated expenditure for the work this year?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

1. In response to the challenges brought by rapid societal development, the Fire Services Department (FSD) replaces existing fire machines, appliances and equipment from time to time and continues to introduce innovative firefighting equipment and technologies to strengthen our firefighting and rescue capabilities, with a view to delivering enhanced services to the public. In the past 3 years, the FSD's expenditure on introducing new firefighting equipment and relevant technology applications was approximately \$251 million¹. Specific details of various items are as follows:

| Category | Equipment introduced | Effectiveness |
|--|--|---|
| Firefighting and safety at fire scenes | New breathing apparatus (BA) (equipped with a short-range communication system, quick-release connectors and air-sharing functions); Lightweight firefighting robot (can access narrow and high-risk areas inaccessible to firemen to carry out firefighting operations); Indoor locating equipment (can track the real-time locations and routes of fire personnel in specific indoor environments such as warehouses and construction sites) | The new BA improves the communication clarity at fire scenes and the efficiency of cylinder replacement; its air-sharing function enhances the mutual assistance and rescue capabilities of fire personnel; the indoor locating equipment enables commanders to accurately track the locations of each team within specific indoor environments, thereby effectively enhancing operational safety |
| Drones and remote support | 46 standard drones (for surveillance, detection and support of daily rescue operations); 1 drone with high payload capacity (with maximum payload capacity increased from 2 kilograms to 30 kilograms for delivery of heavy tools); 6 automated drone docks (the drones can carry out autonomous patrols and detect early signs of fires in locations such as rural areas and typhoon shelters) | In 2025, the drones carried out more than 1 000 flight missions in response to various incidents; the drone with high payload capacity successfully completed 6 deliveries of rescue tools to support vegetation firefighting operations on Chung Yeung Festival in 2025 |

¹ The FSD does not maintain breakdowns of expenditure for each individual item.

| Category | Equipment introduced | Effectiveness |
|--|---|--|
| Mountain search and rescue technologies | Mobile phone locator (employs base station technology, can search for missing person's mobile phone signals within the mountain area); Artificial intelligence (AI) assisted image analysis software (automatically identifies human-like objects in the images taken by drones); Mountain rescue mobile application (enables frontline personnel to track each other's locations and search progress instantly) | These technologies were deployed in 530 mountain search and rescue operations in 2025, significantly enhancing search and rescue efficiency; the AI assisted analysis software drastically reduces the time spent manually reviewing photographs one by one |
| Handling Electric Vehicle (EV) Accidents | EV fire blanket (can cover a burning vehicle to contain the spread of fire and reduce the emission of smoke and heat); EV battery extinguishing system (through the high-pressure pneumatic spike that penetrates the battery casing at the underside of the vehicle, it injects water into the battery directly to rapidly lower the battery temperature and prevent thermal runaway propagation); EV emergency plug (prevents EVs from moving suddenly during rescue operations, thereby ensuring the safety of rescue personnel); Temporary submersion pool (can submerge the battery component that poses a risk of reignition) | The equipment, which covers all aspects of EV fire handling, effectively addresses the risks of battery thermal runaway and reignition, thereby enhancing the safety and efficiency of frontline personnel in tackling EV incidents |
| Detection of Hazardous Materials | Raman spectroscopic device (identifies a wide range of hazardous materials such as organic and inorganic chemicals, drugs, explosives and toxins); Robotic dog (enters chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incident scenes to detect hazardous materials and monitor on-site conditions) | The Raman spectroscopic device significantly improves the speed of on-site identification of hazardous materials; the Robotic dog can collect data on-site in environments where human entry is not advisable, thereby improving incident handling efficiency while ensuring the safety of personnel |

| Category | Equipment introduced | Effectiveness |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Aquatic Rescue | Remote-controlled stretcher (self-propelled, at a speed of 4 metres per second, remotely operable, and equipped with a thermal retention function); Underwater propulsion device (can support rescue operations for up to four persons simultaneously or supports divers in conducting searches under strong current conditions); Side-scan sonar system (conducts wide-area scanning up to 120 metres and uses the BeiDou positioning system to pinpoint suspected targets in real time) | The Remote-controlled stretcher significantly enhances the speed of aquatic rescue operations; the Underwater propulsion device reduces divers' physical exertion and lowers the risk of decompression sickness; the Side-scan sonar system significantly improves the accuracy and coverage of underwater searches |

2. Examples of new technologies or equipment that the FSD plans to introduce are as follows:

| Project | Expected Benefits | Expenditure Involved |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Electronic Entry Control Board System | It assists Entry Control Officers in managing the records of Breathing Apparatus (BA) teams entering and exiting the fire grounds more effectively. The system electronically records the data of the BA team entering and exiting the fire scene in real-time, and instantly displays the operational data, enabling Entry Control Officers to monitor team status at all times, significantly enhancing the management efficiency of Entry Control Officers while providing an analytical basis for post-incident reviews | Approximately \$20 million |
| Mini Thermal Imaging Camera | It enhances firefighters' visibility in smoke-filled fire scenes, aiding in the clear identification of fire sources, trapped individuals and environmental hazards. Compared to previous equipment, its design is more lightweight and portable, significantly reducing operational strain on firefighters | Approximately \$2.2 million |

| Project | Expected Benefits | Expenditure Involved |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Strengthening the drone fleet | By introducing different types of more advanced, higher-performance drone models and explore more potential rescue applications, such as using drones to drop water bombs to help suppress vegetation fires, and enable more effective integration of AI technology, further expanding potential applications in rescue and fire operations | Approximately \$1.5 million |
| Drone Patrol System for Emergency Detection | It integrates automated drone docks with AI technology, dedicated to fixed-point surveillance with the aim of detecting early signs of vegetation fires, vessel fires, and drowning incidents. This enables rescue personnel to swiftly identify targets and initiate rescue operations, thereby significantly enhancing rescue efficiency | Approximately \$3.5 million |

3. In the past 3 years, the FSD has continued to strengthen rescue training for frontline firemen. In respect of live-fire training, regular courses, ranging from 1 day to 3 weeks, are organised for frontline firemen including the “Compartment Fire Behaviour Training (CFBT) Induction Course”, the “CFBT Enhancement Course” and the “Compartment Fire Attacker Course”. Over the past 3 years, more than 3 500 firemen have received such training, involving an annual expenditure of approximately \$570,000. The FSD also introduces the latest technologies through overseas exchanges, and provides professional support in major fire incidents through the Compartment Fire Specialists comprising live-fire training instructors. In addition, the course content has been adjusted to align with the introduction of the new BA, so as to ensure that frontline firemen are conversant with its functions and operations.

With respect to traffic accident rescue, the FSD established the “Road and Railway Rescue Team” (RRRT) in 2023 and organised a 2-week specialised course to teach frontline firemen how to stabilise overturned and inverted vehicles, as well as to move and secure heavy vehicles and railway train compartments. The course also covers rescue and firefighting techniques for EVs. To date, more than 400 firemen have completed the course and obtained the qualification, involving an annual expenditure of approximately \$320,000. Members who completed the course have become qualified members of the RRRT, and are capable of handling serious and complicated road and railway incidents.

Furthermore, the FSD established the “Unmanned Aircraft System Specialist Team” in 2025 to provide professional drone operator courses, the training expenditure of which is approximately \$1.5 million. The Specialist Team also plans to conduct specialist training on drones with high payload capacity in the future to meet the needs of rescue and disaster prevention work.

This year, the FSD will continue to press ahead with the above training programmes and has earmarked financial resources to ensure sustained and orderly implementation of the relevant work.

4. In the past 3 years, the FSD's Psychological Services Unit (PSU) has introduced an array of measures to enhance psychological support and training for fire personnel. Examples are as follows:

The provision of psychological first aid to service members after various job-related critical incidents to reduce acute stress responses and promote long-term adaptation and recovery. The number of service-recipients has reached nearly 1 000.

The PSU also organises a range of training programmes, such as psychological first aid training, stress management workshops and mental health talks, with approximately 2 400 FSD service members participating. One notable example is the "Value-driven Actions Campaign 2.0". The Campaign aims to promote the core values of the FSD through an interactive drama and strengthen service members' psychological resilience. To date, more than 6 400 service members have taken part in the Campaign, the organising cost of which is approximately \$750,000.

Furthermore, following the No. 5 alarm fire in Wang Fuk Court, Tai Po in November 2025, the FSD has procured a one-year outsourced psychological support service to ensure that service members receive appropriate mental health support. This service assists the PSU in implementing corresponding psychological support measures and provides four major services, namely crisis management and outreach psychological support, clinical psychological support for high-risk cases, on-going mental health monitoring, and the "Basic Training Workshop on Post-critical Incident Stress Management". These services have benefited approximately 4 700 service members and will continue to provide individual psychotherapy for colleagues in need. The cost of the above services is approximately \$1.3 million.

The PSU of the FSD will introduce mental health first aid certification training this year to cultivate "mental health first aiders" within the Department, with a view to identifying common mental health issues and providing immediate support. The FSD has earmarked financial resources to ensure that service members can receive appropriate training and continuous mental health support.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB118

(Question Serial No. 1239)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned in the Programme that the Fire Services Department will “continue to enhance the efficiency of fire fighting, rescue operations and ambulance services through the wider use of technology”. Will the Government advise on the following:

1. What are the details of the innovative smart firefighting technologies and equipment used by the Department in operational duties? What are the usage rate and effectiveness of these products or supplies?
2. What firefighting technology products have the Department procured and tested in preparation for actual use? Is there a timetable for their actual use?
3. Does the Government have any plans to introduce more cutting-edge intelligent firefighting equipment and supplies in the future? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure? If not, will consideration be given to conducting research in this direction?

Asked by: Hon FAN Chun-wah, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

1. In response to the challenges brought by rapid societal development, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has been introducing innovative firefighting equipment and technologies to strengthen our firefighting and rescue capabilities, with a view to delivering enhanced services to the public. In the past 3 years, the FSD has introduced new firefighting equipment and technologies in the following categories, and the specific effectiveness by category is set out as follows:

| Category | Equipment introduced | Effectiveness |
|--|--|---|
| Firefighting and safety at fire scenes | New breathing apparatus (BA) (equipped with a short-range communication system, quick-release connectors and air-sharing | The new BA improves the communication clarity at fire scenes and the efficiency of cylinder replacement; its air- |

| Category | Equipment introduced | Effectiveness |
|--|---|--|
| | functions); Lightweight firefighting robot (can access narrow and high-risk areas inaccessible to firemen to carry out firefighting operations); Indoor locating equipment (can track the real-time locations and routes of fire personnel in specific indoor environments such as warehouses and construction sites) | sharing function enhances the mutual assistance and rescue capabilities of fire personnel; the indoor locating equipment enables commanders to accurately track the locations of each team within specific indoor environments, thereby effectively enhancing operational safety |
| Drones and remote support | 46 standard drones (for surveillance, detection and support of daily rescue operations); 1 drone with high payload capacity (with maximum payload capacity increased from 2 kilograms to 30 kilograms for delivery of heavy tools); 6 automated drone docks (the drones can carry out autonomous patrols and detect early signs of fires in locations such as rural areas and typhoon shelters) | In 2025, the drones carried out more than 1 000 flight missions in response to various incidents; the drone with high payload capacity successfully completed 6 deliveries of rescue tools to support vegetation firefighting operations on Chung Yeung Festival in 2025 |
| Mountain search and rescue technologies | Mobile phone locator (employs base station technology, can search for missing person's mobile phone signals within the mountain area); Artificial intelligence (AI) assisted image analysis software (automatically identifies human-like objects in the images taken by drones); Mountain rescue mobile application (enables frontline personnel to track each other's locations and search progress instantly) | These technologies were deployed in 530 mountain search and rescue operations in 2025, significantly enhancing search and rescue efficiency; the AI assisted analysis software drastically reduces the time spent manually reviewing photographs one by one |
| Handling Electric Vehicle (EV) Accidents | EV fire blanket (can cover a burning vehicle to contain the spread of fire and reduce the emission of smoke and heat); EV battery extinguishing system (through the high-pressure pneumatic spike that penetrates the battery casing at the underside of the vehicle, it injects water into the battery directly to rapidly lower the battery temperature and prevent thermal runaway propagation); EV emergency plug (prevents EVs from moving suddenly during rescue operations, thereby ensuring the | The equipment, which covers all aspects of EV fire handling, effectively addresses the risks of battery thermal runaway and reignition, thereby enhancing the safety and efficiency of frontline personnel in tackling EV incidents |

| Category | Equipment introduced | Effectiveness |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| | safety of rescue personnel); Temporary submersion pool (can submerge the battery component that poses a risk of reignition) | |
| Detection of Hazardous Materials | Raman spectroscopic device (identifies a wide range of hazardous materials such as organic and inorganic chemicals, drugs, explosives and toxins); Robotic dog (enters chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incident scenes to detect hazardous materials and monitor on-site conditions) | The Raman spectroscopic device significantly improves the speed of on-site identification of hazardous materials; the Robotic dog can collect data on-site in environments where human entry is not advisable, thereby improving incident handling efficiency while ensuring the safety of personnel |
| Aquatic Rescue | Remote-controlled stretcher (self-propelled, at a speed of 4 metres per second, remotely operable, and equipped with a thermals retention function); Underwater propulsion device (can support rescue operations for up to four persons simultaneously or supports divers in conducting searches under strong current conditions); Side-scan sonar system (conducts wide-area scanning up to 120 metres and uses the BeiDou positioning system to pinpoint suspected targets in real time) | The Remote-controlled stretcher significantly enhances the speed of aquatic rescue operations; the Underwater propulsion device reduces divers' physical exertion and lowers the risk of decompression sickness; the Side-scan sonar system significantly improves the accuracy and coverage of underwater searches |

2. The FSD has procured and commenced trial use of the following new firefighting equipment, and has also continued to conduct further tests to explore the potential for wider application:

| Item | Functions |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Drone with high payload capacity | Its maximum payload capacity has increased from 2 kilograms to 30 kilograms to transport more supplies for supporting operational needs. |
| Lightweight Firefighting Robot | It can access high-risk areas inaccessible to fire personnel to carry out operations, with both its size and weight significantly reduced compared to existing models. It can be deployed flexibly in diverse environments, such as confined spaces, to effectively carry out firefighting operations. |

3. The new technologies or equipment that the FSD plans to introduce and the relevant expenditure are set out as follows:

| Item | Expected Benefits | Estimated Expenditure |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| Electronic Entry Control Board System | It assists Entry Control Officers in managing the records of Breathing Apparatus (BA) teams entering and exiting the fire grounds more effectively. The system electronically records the data of the BA team entering and exiting the fire scene in real-time, and instantly displays the operational data, enabling Entry Control Officers to monitor team status at all times, significantly enhancing the management efficiency of Entry Control Officers while providing an analytical basis for post-incident reviews | Approximately \$20 million |
| Mini Thermal Imaging Camera | It enhances firefighters' visibility in smoke-filled fire scenes, aiding in the clear identification of fire sources, trapped individuals and environmental hazards. Compared to previous equipment, its design is more lightweight and portable, significantly reducing operational strain on firefighters | Approximately \$2.2 million |
| Strengthening the drone fleet | By introducing different types of more advanced and higher-performance drone models and explore more potential rescue applications, such as using drones to drop water bombs to help suppress vegetation fires, and enable more effective integration of AI technology, so as to further expanding potential applications in rescue and fire operations | Approximately \$1.5 million |
| Drone Patrol System for Emergency Detection | It integrates automated drone docks with AI technology, dedicated to fixed-point surveillance with the aim of detecting early signs of vegetation fires, vessels fires, and drowning incidents. This enables rescue personnel to swiftly identify targets and initiate rescue operations, thereby significantly enhancing rescue efficiency | Approximately \$3.5 million |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB119

(Question Serial No. 1240)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention;

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is stated in the Programme that the Fire Services Department (FSD) will “implement a series of measures to enhance fire safety, including the Building Fire Service Installations and Equipment Inspection Programme”. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the details of the FSD's inspections and enforcement actions targeting fire service installations and equipment (FSIs) in buildings in the past 3 years;
2. the measures to enhance fire safety in the coming year, including the details of the relevant inspection programme and the number of target buildings;
3. the current number of staff responsible for conducting inspections of FSIs in buildings, and whether the Government will increase its manpower accordingly in the coming year to step up inspections, as well as the estimated expenditure involved in the entire initiative?

Asked by: Hon FAN Chun-wah, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. The numbers of inspections and enforcement actions targeting fire service installations and equipment (FSIs) in buildings conducted by the Fire Services Department (FSD) in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

| Year | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Inspections on FSIs in buildings | 95 274 | 94 563 | 94 290 |
| Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued | 2 896 | 4 352 | 3 845 |
| Prosecutions instituted | 135 | 1 090 | 1 585 |

2. To address risks associated with fire service installations in buildings, the FSD has launched the first phase of the risk-based inspection programme for FSIs in buildings (codenamed “Outpost”) since 19 January 2026. Internal resources have been temporarily redeployed to carry out inspections and functional testing on fire service installations in approximately 1 500 high-risk buildings in the operation, with a particular focus on the performance of fire alarm systems. If any fire service installations are found not to be in efficient working order, the FSD will require the responsible persons to take immediate remedial measures and will take decisive enforcement actions against the irregularities to ensure public safety. The relevant operation is still in progress. Upon completion of the operation, the FSD will review its effectiveness as appropriate, and expand the inspection programme to cover more buildings subject to availability of resources.

3. At present, inspections and enforcement actions of FSIs in buildings are primarily carried out by 81 Fire Stream personnel from the Fire Protection Facilities Supervision Division of the FSD. As for the aforementioned operation “Outpost”, it is conducted by 65 Fire Stream personnel temporarily redeployed internally. The FSD will continue to monitor the progress of the inspection programme, and review relevant resources from time to time to meet operational needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB120

(Question Serial No. 0338)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) has launched the “Fire Services Department Community Emergency Responder (FSDCER) Scheme”, allowing participants to be appointed as FSDCERs upon completion of training. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The number of FSDCERs recruited, with a breakdown by the 18 districts in Hong Kong.
2. The number of courses conducted, with a breakdown by the 18 districts in Hong Kong.
3. The total expenditure involved in the Scheme.

Asked by: Hon FONG Kwok-shan, Christine (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1. To enhance fire safety awareness and the emergency preparedness of the public, the Fire Services Department (FSD) launched the “Fire Services Department Community Emergency Responder (FSDCER) Scheme” on 14 December 2024. The FSDCER Scheme provides members of the public with training on fire prevention, emergency preparedness, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator, equipping them to be guardians of community safety.

In addition to open recruitment, members of the public can apply to the FSD as an organisation or group to arrange dedicated group training sessions. Alternatively, individuals can become a FSDCER upon completing training through the Scout Association of Hong Kong (which is recognised as an “Accredited Training Institution” under the Scheme).

As of 28 February 2026, the FSD has recruited 9 392 FSDCERs. The number of recruits, broken down by Hong Kong's 18 districts and other channels, is as follows:

| District | Number of FSDCERs |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Wan Chai | 132 |
| Central and Western | 427 |
| Southern | 928 |
| Eastern | 231 |
| Islands | 275 |
| Kwun Tong | 273 |
| Sai Kung | 268 |
| Kowloon City | 123 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 203 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 387 |
| Sham Shui Po | 186 |
| Sha Tin | 221 |
| Tai Po | 186 |
| Tuen Mun | 289 |
| Yuen Long | 247 |
| North | 193 |
| Kwai Tsing | 144 |
| Tsuen Wan | 414 |
| Others [#] | 4 265 |
| Total | 9 392 |

Including FSDCERs recruited through organisations or groups

2. As of 28 February 2026, the FSD has conducted 312 courses. The number of courses conducted, broken down by Hong Kong's 18 districts and other channels, is as follows:

| District | Number of courses |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Wan Chai | 14 |
| Central and Western | 18 |
| Southern | 40 |
| Eastern | 11 |
| Islands | 16 |
| Kwun Tong | 10 |
| Sai Kung | 10 |
| Kowloon City | 7 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 10 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 18 |
| Sham Shui Po | 9 |
| Sha Tin | 14 |
| Tai Po | 11 |
| Tuen Mun | 12 |
| Yuen Long | 13 |
| North | 11 |
| Kwai Tsing | 11 |
| Tsuen Wan | 14 |
| Others [#] | 63 |
| Total | 312 |

Including FSDCERs recruited through organisations or groups

3. The "FSDCER Scheme" is one of the programmes implemented by the Public Safety and Communication Division of the Department. The FSD will deploy existing manpower to conduct the relevant courses. The expenditure on activities and promotion in 2025-26 is approximately \$215,000.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB121

(Question Serial No. 1059)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the work on fire safety for old buildings in Hong Kong, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) As of 2025, the compliance status of target buildings (i.e. composite and domestic buildings constructed on or before 1 March 1987) with Fire Safety Directions (Directions) issued by the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD)? Please provide the relevant information in the table below:

| | Number of target buildings |
|---|----------------------------|
| (a) Target buildings issued with Directions[(b)+(c)] | |
| (b) Target buildings that have complied with the Directions or have had the Directions discharged | |
| (c) Target buildings that have not complied with the Directions [(d)+(e)] | |
| (d) Target buildings that are making progress in compliance work | |
| (e) Target buildings that are not making progress without reasonable excuse | |
| (f) Target buildings not issued with Directions | |
| (g) Total [(a)+(f)] | |

- (2) As of 2025, (a) the total number of Directions issued to target buildings by the FSD and the BD; (b) the number of Directions that have not been complied with; and (c) the number of cases with prosecution instituted by the Government for Directions that have not been complied with?
- (3) Given that a considerable number of composite and domestic buildings constructed on or before 1 March 1987 have yet to fully meet the modern fire safety standard, will the Government formulate a specific implementation roadmap or phased completion

timeframe to expedite the progress of the improvement works and safeguard the lives of residents?

Asked by: Hon HUNG Kam-in (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

- (1) As of end of December 2025, the compliance status of target buildings with Fire Safety Directions (Directions) issued by the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) is as follows:

| | Number of target buildings |
|---|----------------------------|
| (a) Target buildings issued with Directions[(b)+(c)] | 11 199 |
| (b) Target buildings that have complied with the Directions or have had the Directions discharged | 217 |
| (c) Target buildings that have not complied with the Directions [(d)+(e)] | 10 982 |
| (d) Target buildings that are making progress in compliance work | 10 338 |
| (e) Target buildings that are not making progress without reasonable excuse | 644 |
| (f) Target buildings not issued with Directions | 526 |
| (g) Total [(a)+(f)] | 11 725 |

- (2) As of end of December 2025, the FSD and the BD have issued a total of 409 522 Directions to target buildings, of which 249 147 Directions have not been complied with. The Government has instituted a total of 7 475 prosecutions for Directions that have not been complied with.
- (3) The Government is committed to improving the fire safety of old buildings. The Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) (the Ordinance) came into operation in 2007 to require the upgrading of fire safety standards of pre-1987 composite and domestic buildings to meet the modern fire protection requirements.

The Government has been proactively providing various kinds of support and facilitation measures to owners of old buildings to assist them in carrying out fire safety improvement works, thereby enhancing the fire safety of old buildings. In terms of financial support, the Government, in partnership with the Urban Renewal Authority, implemented a \$2 billion Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme in 2018, providing subsidies to owners for carrying out fire safety improvement works, with the funding subsequently increased to \$5.5 billion. As for technical support, the FSD has put in place an array of facilitation measures allowing target buildings to reduce the capacity of fire service water tanks since 2016, followed by the introduction of further facilitation measures in July 2023 to exempt buildings from the installation of fire service water tanks. These measures aim to assist target buildings in overcoming difficulties arising from technical or spatial constraints.

In light of technological development, the FSD launched the Pilot Scheme on “Internet of Things Fire Detection System” (IoT FDS) in target buildings at the end of 2025 to

explore the use of IoT FDS and fire extinguishers as an alternative solution, exempting target buildings of 6 storeys or below from the installation of fire service equipment such as fire hose reels, fire service water tanks and water pumps, with a view to assisting owners of target buildings in complying with Directions more efficiently and conveniently, thereby effectively enhancing the overall fire safety standards of old buildings in the long run. Meanwhile, the FSD has also explored the technical feasibility of extending the system to target buildings of 7 storeys or above, with a view to improving the fire safety standards of composite and domestic buildings of greater height.

Although the Government has been proactively providing various kinds of support to owners of old buildings, a considerable number of such owners, particularly the owners of “three-nil buildings”, may still face difficulties in complying with the requirements of the Ordinance due to the lack of coordination capability, etc. To this end, the Fire Safety (Buildings) (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 (the Amendment Ordinance), which came into effect in December 2024, empowers two enforcement authorities, namely the FSD and the BD, to carry out fire safety improvement works (defaulted works) for owners who have failed to comply with the requirements of the Ordinance, and to recover the relevant costs from them upon completion of the works.

In addition, the Amendment Ordinance also includes other elements to encourage owners to comply with the requirements of the Ordinance on their own initiative, including increasing the penalties for non-compliance with Directions or Fire Safety Compliance Orders (FSCOs). With reference to the penalties for offences of similar nature or gravity, the Government has raised the maximum fines for non-compliance with Directions or FSCOs to \$100,000 and \$200,000 respectively, and the daily fines to \$10,000 and \$20,000 respectively, to maintain the necessary deterrent effect.

The Government will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach to push forward the progress of the improvement works to enhance the standard of fire safety.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB122

(Question Serial No. 1314)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Fire Service; (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Has the Fire Services Department (FSD) conducted any studies on the application of innovative technologies, such as drones and artificial intelligence (AI), in disaster relief, firefighting and disaster reduction? If yes, what are the details of the study? How effective is it, and what was the expenditure involved? If the results of the study are favourable, will the Government formally introduce such innovative technologies within the next 3 years? If yes, what are the details of the relevant plans and expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon IP Ngo-tung, Chris (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

In response to the challenges brought by rapid societal development, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has been introducing innovative firefighting equipment and technologies to strengthen our firefighting and rescue capabilities, with a view to delivering enhanced services to the public.

Current application of drones

In terms of rescue, the FSD uses drones to surmount dangerous and harsh conditions, such as cliffs and mountains, and quickly reach the scenes to assist in the search for missing persons. Throughout the rescue process, drones can also conduct aerial surveillance to ensure safety at the site. In major incidents where the scenes are complicated, drones can take high resolution photographs of collapsed and deformed debris for the production of three-dimensional models, thereby facilitating the assessment and planning of rescue operations by the ground rescue party. If necessary, the airdrop system installed at the drones will be used to drop necessities to persons in need of rescue. For hazardous materials incidents, the FSD uses drones equipped with hazardous materials detectors to conduct swift aerial inspection, assisting in identifying and locating potential sources of danger. This provides frontline personnel with real-time data, enhancing both the safety and accuracy in handling dangerous chemical incidents.

In terms of firefighting, the FSD uses drones equipped with live-streaming and thermal imaging capabilities to analyse the fire scene situation and identify individuals awaiting

rescue. The drones also provide high-altitude illumination during night time to support frontline firefighting operations.

Research projects

Through the “Low-altitude Economy Regulatory Sandbox Scheme”, the FSD has introduced drones with high payload capacity for the delivery of emergency rescue tools in rural areas so as to enhance overall rescue efficiency and flexibility in operational deployment. Piloted during the Chung Yeung Festival in 2025, the drones successfully completed 6 deliveries of rescue tools and effectively supported frontline fire personnel in performing vegetation firefighting duties. This project involves an expenditure of about \$1.2 million.

To further enhance our disaster prevention and emergency response capabilities, the FSD is developing the “Drone Patrol System for Emergency Detection”. This system integrates automated drone docks with artificial intelligence (AI) technology, dedicated to fixed-point surveillance with the aim of detecting early signs of vegetation fires, vessel fires, and drowning incidents. Through autonomous patrols over designated forest or water areas, the drones conduct routine surveillance and capture real-time images which are immediately analysed by the AI system to accurately identify smoke, flames, and potential drowning victims. Once signs of an incident are detected, the system will promptly issue alerts and simultaneously display precise geographic coordinates on the GeoInfo Map, enabling rescue personnel to swiftly identify targets and initiate rescue operations, thereby significantly enhancing rescue efficiency. This project involves an expenditure of about \$3.5 million.

Other innovative technologies

Apart from drones and AI, the FSD also plans to continue introducing more innovative firefighting equipment. Examples are as follows:

| Item | Expected Benefits | Expenditure Involved |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Electronic Entry Control Board System | It assists Entry Control Officers in managing the records of Breathing Apparatus (BA) teams entering and exiting the fire grounds more effectively. The system electronically records the data of the BA team entering and exiting the fire scene in real-time, and instantly displays the operational data, enabling Entry Control Officers to monitor team status at all times, significantly enhancing the management efficiency of Entry Control Officers while providing an analytical basis for post-incident reviews. | Approximately \$20 million |
| Mini Thermal Imaging Camera | It enhances firefighters’ visibility in smoke-filled fire scenes, aiding in the clear identification of fire sources, trapped individuals and environmental hazards. Compared to previous equipment, its design is more lightweight and portable, significantly reducing operational strain on firefighters. | Approximately \$2.2 million |

In response to the challenges brought by rapid societal development, the FSD will continue to introduce innovative firefighting equipment and technologies to strengthen our firefighting and rescue capabilities, with a view to delivering enhanced services to the public.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB123

(Question Serial No. 1315)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What specific work did the Fire Services Department undertake in the past year in implementing the “Greater Bay Area Emergency Response and Rescue Operational Plan” and what progress has been made? Will the Government further develop a firefighting and rescue co-ordination mechanism among the three places for major fire incidents? If yes, what are the details of the mechanism; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon IP Ngo-tung, Chris (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

On 19 March 2025, the governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao held the first joint meeting during which the three parties implemented the “Greater Bay Area Emergency Response and Rescue Operational Plan” (Operational Plan) to establish a more comprehensive, pragmatic and systematic emergency response mechanism. In the past year, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has been proactively implementing various work under the Operational Plan.

As part of the efforts, a cross-boundary joint exercise, codenamed “Liancheng-2025”, was held in Hong Kong from 25 March to 27 March 2025 by the FSD together with the Fire and Rescue Corps of Guangdong Province and the Macao Fire Services Bureau. A total of 75 fire personnel, 18 fire appliances, four inflatable rescue boats and over 1 200 items of rescue equipment were deployed during the exercise. The exercise, which took place at the Fire and Ambulance Services Academy and Lei Yue Mun, simulated Hong Kong experiencing a super typhoon and torrential rain, which led to incidents such as flooding, fallen trees, landslides and building collapses in various districts. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government simulated a request for assistance from Guangdong and Macao under the joint emergency command mechanism. The joint exercise effectively tested the emergency mobilisation mechanism, the technical and knowledge exchange mechanism and the resource sharing mechanism of the three parties under the Operational Plan, practically achieving the aim of joint prevention and collaboration, and mutual complementarity to strengthen the consolidated rescue efforts of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) in response to major disasters.

With regards to major fire incidents, the FSD will conduct a cross-boundary joint exercise on firefighting and rescue operation in high-rise building with counterparts from the Fire and Rescue Corps of Guangdong Province and the Macao Fire Services Bureau within this year. In addition, the joint exercise under the Operational Plan, “Liancheng-2026”, will be held in May 2026 in Macao. It is expected that over 170 fire personnel and 30 fire appliances will be deployed to participate in the joint exercise. On top of the exercise in connection with incidents caused by major natural disasters, a cross-boundary seminar on firefighting and rescue operation in high-rise buildings will also be held to discuss the direction of the firefighting and rescue cooperation mechanism of the three places. The fire departments of the three places will also holistically review the list of shared emergency vehicles, equipment, personnel and experts formulated under the Operational Plan, with a view to meeting the actual needs of the firefighting and rescue operations in high-rise buildings. In addition, further co-ordination will be made in areas such as incident command, equipment standards, communication and firefighting and rescue procedures among the three places.

Furthermore, the FSD has been maintaining close connection with rescue departments in the GBA through ongoing technical exchanges and training programmes. As of March 2026, a total of 45 different forms of exchange activities and 1 online training programme have been held. These include national studies course, urban search and rescue technical exchange and training, fire engineering specialist training, paramedic technical exchange and training, high angle rescue exchange and training, compartment fire behaviour training, hazardous materials training, and diving training. Approximately 2 000 fire service counterparts from the GBA have participated in the training.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB124

(Question Serial No. 0704)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the inspection and law enforcement actions of the Hong Kong Fire Services Department (FSD), will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) In each of the past 2 years and the current year to date, the numbers of advisory letters and warning letters issued, as well as the numbers of prosecutions instituted by the FSD against units with open kitchens built in accordance with approved building plans, for failing to conduct fire service installations inspections at least once in every 12 months as required under Regulation 9(b) of the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations (Cap. 95B);
- (2) According to the indicators set by the FSD, it is estimated that in 2026, approximately 24 000 inspections of fire safety will be conducted in schools, child care centres, food premises, places of public entertainment, karaoke establishments, and drug dependent persons treatment and rehabilitation centres. The figure represents a decrease of about 45% and 43% compared to the estimated and actual figure in 2025, respectively. What are the reasons for this significant downward adjustment of the indicators, and how will the impact of reduced inspections on fire safety in these relevant premises be assessed?
- (3) The current number of buildings in Hong Kong that have not yet complied with fire safety directions, with a tabulated breakdown by District Council district; and
- (4) For each of the past 2 years and the current year to date, please provide the following information regarding the FSD's inspections at construction sites: the numbers of fire safety inspections conducted, the numbers of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued to the persons concerned, and the numbers of prosecutions instituted against the violation of fire safety-related regulations?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

- (1) In general, open kitchens in residential units are installed with smoke detectors and sprinkler heads, forming an extension of the main fire service system of the building. Currently, when conducting annual inspections, a registered fire service installation contractor (RFSIC) generally issues only one consolidated fire service installations and equipment (FSIs) certificate for the relevant systems of the entire building (including common and private areas). Therefore, the Fire Services Department (FSD) does not keep a breakdown of the FSIs in individual units with open kitchens.

If owners of fire service installations are found to be in non-compliance with the requirements of the relevant legislation, the FSD will take appropriate enforcement actions based on the severity of the non-compliance, including issuing advisory letters, warning letters, and Fire Hazard Abatement Notices (FHANs), up to and including instituting prosecutions. The figures for inspection and enforcement work conducted by the FSD in respect of FSIs in buildings in the past 2 years and the current year to date are tabulated below:

| Year | 2024 | 2025 | 2026* |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Inspections | 94 563 | 94 290 | 16 993 |
| Advisory letters issued | 23 198 | 26 903 | 4 222 |
| Warning letters issued | 1 655 | 3 973 | 269 |
| FHANs issued | 4 352 | 3 845 | 2 084 |
| Prosecutions instituted | 1 090 | 1 585 | 1 287 |

*As at 28 February 2026

- (2) Without compromising fire safety, the FSD has been continuously reviewing its current manpower resources and licensing procedures, with a view to streamlining the licensing approval process and optimising the utilisation of manpower resources. Specific measures include acquiring relevant information from government internal electronic information systems (e.g. the Building Records Access and Viewing On-line System) as another option in place of conducting initial inspections for new applications; and consolidating some administrative inspections that are duplicative in nature, such as reducing “inspections for provisional licences” for food factories or light refreshment restaurants with relatively simple operations, and reducing “inspections for alteration of plans” for cases of which construction work has not yet commenced. These measures are expected to reduce approximately 20 000 inspections per year, being conducive to the goal of facilitating the business sector and the general public.

It must be noted that the above-mentioned adjustments are purely measures to streamline administrative procedures. The inspections being reduced are administrative in nature and do not involve routine enforcement inspection work relating to fire safety. The fire safety level of the relevant premises will not be affected by these administrative streamlining measures. On the contrary, by enhancing work efficiency and streamlining administrative procedures, the FSD can allocate the manpower resources saved to fire safety work in a more targeted manner, including strengthening inspections and enforcement actions on higher-risk premises, thereby comprehensively enhancing the overall fire safety efficacy and achieving more effective use of resources. The FSD will, as always, proactively assess the fire risks of various types of premises according to a stringent risk-based principle, continuously and actively identify high-risk cases and

take appropriate follow-up actions, so as to ensure that all types of premises maintain the required fire safety level and effectively safeguard the lives and property of the public.

- (3) The Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 502), the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) and the Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 636) came into operation in 1997, 2007 and 2020 respectively, requiring the upgrading of fire safety standards of old commercial buildings/premises, composite and domestic buildings, and industrial buildings to meet modern fire protection requirements. As the enforcement authorities (EAs) for the above three Ordinances, the FSD and the Buildings Department (BD) conduct joint inspections of target buildings/premises and issue Fire Safety Directions (Directions) based on the actual conditions of the buildings/premises and require the owners and/or occupants of the target buildings/premises to upgrade the FSIs and fire safety construction of the buildings/premises concerned to the required standard.

The EAs do not keep a breakdown of the numbers of buildings/premises that have not complied with the Directions by District Council district. As of the end of February 2026, the breakdown of Directions that have not been complied with by types of buildings/premises is tabulated below:

| Types of target buildings/premises | Number of buildings/premises issued with Directions | | Number of buildings/premises that have not complied with the Directions | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------|---|--------|
| | FSD | BD | FSD | BD |
| Prescribed commercial premises | 2 527 | 2 552 | 659 | 611 |
| Specified commercial buildings | 1 570 | 1 582 | 429 | 717 |
| Composite and domestic buildings* | 11 244 | | 10 085 | 10 226 |
| Industrial buildings* | 286 | | 286 | 283 |

*The FSD and the BD will conduct joint inspections of target buildings/premises and jointly issue Directions based on the actual conditions of the buildings/premises.

- (4) The FSD deploys its staff to conduct inspections at construction sites. The numbers of fire safety inspections conducted at construction sites, the numbers of FHANs issued to the persons concerned, and the numbers of prosecutions instituted against violations of the fire safety-related regulations in the past 2 years up to date are as follows:

| Year | 2024 | 2025 | 2026* |
|---|-------|------|-------|
| Number of fire safety inspections | 1 093 | 781 | 88 |
| FHANs related to inspections of construction sites | 2 | 8 | 0 |
| Number of prosecutions related to inspections of construction sites | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*As at 28 February 2026

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB125

(Question Serial No. 0460)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In recent years, the Hong Kong Fire Services Department (FSD) has been proactively introducing new technologies to enhance the efficiency of firefighting and rescue operations as well as to safeguard the safety of frontline personnel. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the major considerations of the FSD in introducing new firefighting equipment and technologies?
2. Given the high density of high-rise buildings in Hong Kong, whether the FSD has introduced new technologies specifically to address fires in high-rise buildings?
3. Given the growing popularity of electric vehicles (EVs) in Hong Kong, whether the FSD has introduced additional equipment and provided additional training for EV fires?
4. What new firefighting equipment has been introduced by the FSD in the past 3 years, and how effective has such equipment been?
5. In relation to the above question, what are the details of expenditure on each item of new firefighting equipment?

Asked by: Hon LEE Hoey Simon (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

1. When the Fire Services Department (FSD) introduces new firefighting equipment and technologies, it primarily takes into account the below-mentioned four factors. First, the enhancement of operational efficiency and safety of fire personnel. Second, cost-effectiveness, ensuring that reasonable and measurable effectiveness can be achieved within available resources. Third, technological maturity and reliability - the equipment introduced must be fully tested to ensure stable operation under demanding and unpredictable emergency rescue environments. Fourth, compatibility and training support - new equipment should be integrable into the existing operational framework,

with corresponding training arrangements to enable frontline personnel to use it effectively.

2. Given the dense clustering of high-rise buildings in Hong Kong, high-rise fires pose several unique challenges to firefighting operations. These include: firefighters carrying equipment having to climb multiple flights of stairs, working for extended periods in environments with thick smoke and extremely low visibility, multiple sub-teams entering and exiting fire scenes in turn, commanders finding it difficult to grasp real-time conditions inside the building from the outside, as well as the risks faced by fire personnel navigating complex and narrow high-rise corridor structures. To address these challenges, the FSD has been progressively introducing a range of new technologies in recent years:

Personal equipment:

The FSD has introduced a new type of breathing apparatus (BA). The new BA is equipped with a communication assistive device that provides in-mask audio reception, enabling firefighters to maintain short-range communication at fire scenes and facilitating clearer and smoother team co-ordination. The new BA also features quick-release connectors, facilitating fast replacement of compressed air cylinders. It is also equipped with a built-in air-sharing system, allowing team members to instantly supply air to fellow colleagues who encounter emergencies. These functions are particularly important at high-rise fire scenes where firefighters have to carry equipment over long distances while climbing.

Access control of sub-teams:

The FSD is studying the introduction of an Electronic Entry Control Board System to electronically record the data of BA teams entering and exiting the fire scene in real-time, and instantly display the operational data. High-rise fires often involve multiple sub-teams entering and exiting the fire grounds in turn, thereby placing a great demand for record accuracy. This system can significantly enhance the management efficiency of Entry Control Officers and provide an analytical basis for post-incident reviews.

Aerial surveillance and intelligence:

The FSD's drone team can deploy drones equipped with live-streaming and thermal imaging capabilities in high-rise fires to monitor, from elevated positions outside the building, real-time situations where fires spread and identify the locations of individuals awaiting rescue, so as to provide ground commanders with visual intelligence that is difficult for ground personnel to obtain. The drones also provide high-altitude illumination during night time to support frontline operations.

3. To strengthen the capability of tackling electric vehicle (EV) fires, the FSD has introduced a number of specialised tools, including EV fire blanket (can cover a burning vehicle to contain the spread of fire and reduce the emission of smoke and heat); EV battery extinguishing system (through the high-pressure pneumatic spike that penetrates the battery casing at the underside of the vehicle, it injects water into the battery directly to rapidly lower the battery temperature and prevent thermal runaway propagation); EV emergency plug (prevents EVs from moving suddenly during rescue operations, thereby

ensuring the safety of rescue personnel¹) and temporary submersion pool (can submerge the battery component that poses a risk of reignition). The above equipment, which covers all aspects of EV fire handling, from firefighting and containing the spread to preventing reignition, effectively enhances the safety and efficiency in tackling EV incidents. The FSD will also continue to keep a close watch on the developments of the industry, conduct timely assessments and introduce other new equipment.

As for training, the FSD has been providing specialised training for its frontline personnel to ensure that they possess the professional skills to handle EV fire incidents. In 2023, the FSD established the “Road and Railway Rescue Team” (RRRT) and organised a 2-week specialised course, which specifically covers firefighting techniques for EVs. To date, more than 400 firemen have completed the course and obtained the qualification. Looking ahead, the FSD will continue to arrange training and refine the training content, so that fire personnel can familiarise themselves with the operation of the new equipment and the latest rescue strategies, thereby further enhancing their overall response capability and professional standards.

4. In response to the challenges brought by rapid societal development, the FSD has been introducing innovative firefighting equipment and technologies to strengthen our firefighting and rescue capabilities, with a view to delivering enhanced services to the public. In the past 3 years, the FSD has introduced new firefighting equipment and technologies in the following categories (including the aforementioned new equipment and technologies for tackling high-rise building fires and EV fires), and the specific effectiveness by category is set out as follows:

| Category | Equipment introduced | Effectiveness |
|--|--|---|
| Firefighting and safety at fire scenes | New breathing apparatus (BA) (equipped with a short-range communication system, quick-release connectors and air-sharing functions); Lightweight firefighting robot (can access narrow and high-risk areas inaccessible to firemen to carry out firefighting operations); Indoor locating equipment (can track the real-time locations and routes of fire personnel in specific indoor environments such as warehouses and construction sites) | The new BA improves the communication clarity at fire scenes and the efficiency of cylinder replacement; its air-sharing function enhances the mutual assistance and rescue capabilities of fire personnel; the indoor locating equipment enables commanders to accurately track the locations of each team within specific indoor environments, thereby effectively enhancing operational safety |

¹ EV emergency plugs are used at scenes of fires or traffic accidents involving EVs to prevent the vehicles from moving suddenly. The device can be directly plugged into the charging port of an EV to simulate the charging status of the vehicle, thereby effectively preventing the vehicle from starting or moving with its own power, and enhancing the safety of rescue personnel at the scene.

| Category | Equipment introduced | Effectiveness |
|--|--|--|
| Drones and remote support | 46 standard drones (for surveillance, detection and support of daily rescue operations); 1 drone with high payload capacity (with maximum payload capacity increased from 2 kilograms to 30 kilograms for delivery of heavy tools); 6 automated drone docks (the drones can carry out autonomous patrols and detect early signs of fires in locations such as rural areas and typhoon shelters) | In 2025, the drones carried out more than 1 000 flight missions in response to various incidents; the drone with high payload capacity successfully completed 6 deliveries of rescue tools to support vegetation firefighting operations on Chung Yeung Festival in 2025 |
| Mountain search and rescue technologies | Mobile phone locator (employs base station technology, can search for missing person's mobile phone signals within the mountain area); Artificial intelligence (AI) assisted image analysis software (automatically identifies human-like objects in the images taken by drones); Mountain rescue mobile application (enables frontline personnel to track each other's locations and search progress instantly) | These technologies were deployed in 530 mountain search and rescue operations in 2025, significantly enhancing search and rescue efficiency; the AI assisted analysis software drastically reduces the time spent manually reviewing photographs one by one |
| Handling Electric Vehicle (EV) Accidents | EV fire blanket, EV battery extinguishing system, EV emergency plug, temporary submersion pool (for details, please refer to part 3 above) | The equipment, which covers all aspects of EV fire handling, effectively addresses the risks of battery thermal runaway and reignition, thereby enhancing the safety and efficiency of frontline personnel in tackling EV incidents |
| Detection of Hazardous Materials | Raman spectroscopic device (identifies a wide range of hazardous materials such as organic and inorganic chemicals, drugs, explosives and toxins); Robotic dog (enters chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incident scenes to detect hazardous materials and monitor on-site conditions) | The Raman spectroscopic device significantly improves the speed of on-site identification of hazardous materials; the Robotic dog can collect data on-site in environments where human entry is not advisable, thereby improving incident handling efficiency while ensuring the safety of personnel |

| | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| Aquatic Rescue | Remote-controlled stretcher (self-propelled, at a speed of 4 metres per second, remotely operable, and equipped with a thermal retention function); Underwater propulsion device (can support rescue operations for up to four persons simultaneously or supports divers in conducting searches under strong current conditions); Side-scan sonar system (conducts wide-area scanning up to 120 metres and uses the BeiDou positioning system to pinpoint suspected targets in real time) | The Remote-controlled stretcher significantly enhances the speed of aquatic rescue operations; the Underwater propulsion device reduces divers' physical exertion and lowers the risk of decompression sickness; the Side-scan sonar system significantly improves the accuracy and coverage of underwater searches |
|----------------|---|---|

Overall speaking, the new equipment and technological measures have not only enhanced the safety of frontline personnel, but have also significantly boosted rescue efficiency, demonstrating the FSD's commitment to leveraging technology in support of rescue operations to holistically enhance operational effectiveness.

5. In the past 3 years, the FSD's expenditure on introducing new firefighting equipment and relevant technology applications was approximately \$251 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB126

(Question Serial No. 0461)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Fire Service; (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

With the ageing building stock in Hong Kong, the number of buildings subject to statutory major maintenance works has surged. During the maintenance period, the erection of scaffolding on external walls and the possible temporary shutdown of certain fire services systems due to maintenance works may pose a significant fire risk to residents. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the specific risk indicators and inspection focuses of the Fire Services Department (FSD) in its inspections of buildings undergoing major maintenance works with scaffolding erected, and the differences in such indicators and focuses between residential and non-residential buildings;
2. the measures taken by the FSD to balance the fire risk in the event that fire service installations are shut down during maintenance periods;
3. the number of inspections conducted by the FSD on buildings undergoing major maintenance works in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by “regular inspection”, “surprise check” and “targeted inspection upon receipt of complaints”;
4. the number of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued by the FSD for irregularities found in buildings undergoing major maintenance works, and the number of prosecutions instituted in each of the past 3 years;
5. the number of joint inspections conducted by the FSD with the Buildings Department or the Labour Department in each of the past 3 years;
6. the expenditure and staff establishment for fire safety inspections conducted by the FSD in each of the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon LEE Hoey Simon (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Ordinance (Cap. 95) regulates the fire safety of buildings, say by requiring the means of escape to remain unobstructed, smoke stop doors not to be wedged open, and fire service installations of buildings to be in efficient working order, etc. Given that workers will be entering or exiting the building frequently and there are processes involving storage of building materials and erection of scaffolding on external walls during major maintenance works, the potential fire safety risks will correspondingly increase. It is therefore essential to ensure that the buildings fully comply with the aforesaid fire safety requirements during such maintenance periods, so as to provide adequate protection for residents and other building users. In view of the risks mentioned above, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has been conducting a variety of building inspections and enforcement operations. In connection with buildings undergoing major maintenance works, the FSD mounted a special operation in January 2026, inspecting 461 such buildings with emphasis on their fire service installations and equipment (FSIs) (including hose reel and fire alarm system), so as to confirm whether they were kept in efficient working order and whether they had been shut down due to maintenance works.
2. Pursuant to the requirements under regulation 8 of the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations (Cap. 95B), the owner of any FSIs shall keep such FSIs in efficient working order at all times, regardless of whether the building is undergoing major maintenance works. According to FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2021, when FSIs are expected to be shut down overnight or for more than 24 hours continuously, registered FSIs contractors are required to submit a Notification of FSIs Shutdown to the FSD. Upon receipt of such a notification, the FSD will deploy staff to conduct on-site risk assessment within 24 hours and require FSIs owners and property management companies to take appropriate additional fire safety measures to enhance the fire safety of the building during FSIs shutdown periods. Such measures include posting Notice of FSIs Failure at prominent locations in the building, posting Defective FSIs Notice on FSIs that are not in efficient working order, providing additional FSIs (such as fire extinguishers or stand-alone fire detectors), arranging additional patrols, and formulating emergency plans for the FSIs shutdown periods.

As fire safety risks are heightened during major maintenance works, the FSD met with the property management sector in late 2025 and early 2026, reminding them that repairs to FSIs should not be conducted concurrently with major maintenance works. Owners should rectify defects of FSIs prior to major maintenance works and ensure that all FSIs have been restored to efficient working order before commencing such maintenance works, so as to provide protection for residents during the maintenance period. Moreover, property management companies should arrange for residents to participate in fire safety talks and fire drills before such maintenance works with a view to enhancing their fire prevention awareness.

The Government is now taking forward the amendment of the Fire Services Ordinance (Cap. 95) and its related subsidiary legislation. One of the amendments is adding a new requirement which shutdown of major fire service installations has to be approved by the FSD, so as to reduce fire risks.

3-5. Figures related to fire safety inspections conducted by the FSD in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

| Year | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of fire safety inspections | 456 168 | 460 400 | 447 464 |
| Number of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices (FHANs) issued | 9 075 | 17 775 | 17 093 |
| Number of prosecutions | 1 471 | 4 967 | 3 458 |

The FSD does not maintain breakdown statistics for “regular inspection”, “surprise check”, “targeted inspection upon receipt of complaints” and buildings undergoing major maintenance works. To ensure the fire safety of such buildings, the FSD conducted special inspections on the FSIs of 461 such buildings in January 2026. Among these, irregularities were found in the FSIs of 48 buildings. The FSD subsequently issued a total of 63 FHANs, and the related prosecution work is still in progress.

In addition to conducting surprise and targeted inspections and enforcement actions based on a risk-based principle, taking into account the use of buildings, past records of non-compliance, complaints, intelligence, etc., the FSD also carry out joint operations with other departments when necessary. However, the FSD does not maintain the relevant figures.

6. Fire safety inspections are undertaken by different units in the FSD. For the past 5 years, the FSD conducted over 400 000 inspections each year. Moreover, the FSD also mobilises its fire personnel through temporary internal resource allocation to carry out inspections from time to time. Therefore, no breakdown figure on expenditure or staff establishment for fire safety inspections is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0032)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the progress in law enforcement after the commencement of the Fire Safety (Buildings) (Amendment) Ordinance 2024, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What is the cumulative total number of “Fire Safety Directions” (Directions) issued by the Fire Services Department and the Buildings Department so far? Among these Directions, what are the number of cases that have been complied with and the percentage thereof?
- (2) According to the latest statistics, what is the number of cases across the territory with Directions expired and not been complied with? Of these aforesaid non-compliance cases, how many involve “three-nil buildings”? For cases lacking progress without reasonable excuse, what are the numbers of successful prosecutions and convictions?
- (3) What is the current progress of the implementation of the “pilot scheme” on defaulted works? What are the locations of the buildings selected for the defaulted works? What is the number of buildings where the Government has officially stepped in and commenced the defaulted works? What is the expected completion time of the first defaulted works project?
- (4) In the next 3 years, how many buildings does the Government expect to carry out “defaulted works” for? What is the estimated expenditure earmarked for this purpose each year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

- (1) As of end-February 2026, the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) have issued a total of 410 570 “Fire Safety Directions” (Directions) to target buildings under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (the Ordinance). Of these, 162 365 have been complied with or discharged, accounting for 40% of the total.

- (2) As of end-February 2026, in cases handled by the FSD, there were a total of 70 630 cases across the territory in which the Directions expired and remained non-compliant, involving 234 “three-nil buildings”; as for cases handled by the BD, there were a total of 46 408 such Directions, involving 1 908 “three-nil buildings”. The enforcement authorities (EAs) will closely monitor the progress of non-compliance cases and actively assist the building owners concerned in complying with the Directions; if owners ignore the Directions or make poor progress without reasonable excuse, the Government will instigate prosecutions progressively.

Since the Ordinance came into effect in 2007, the numbers of successful prosecutions and convictions by the FSD and the BD against cases lacking progress without reasonable excuse were 4 559 and 1 472 respectively.

- (3) The Fire Safety (Buildings) (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 came into operation in December 2024, empowering the EAs (namely the Director of Fire Services and the Director of Buildings) to carry out fire safety improvement works for owners of target buildings¹ who have failed to comply with the Directions/Fire Safety Compliance Orders, and to recover the costs of defaulted works, supervision charges and a surcharge of not more than 20% of those costs from such owners upon completion of the works, with a view to assisting those with genuine difficulties in enhancing the fire safety standards of old buildings. In the third quarter of 2025, the EAs implemented a pilot scheme under the “defaulted works” mechanism of the Ordinance, awarding works consultancy and contractor contracts for 10 target buildings across districts in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories. As of end-February, the EAs have commenced “defaulted works” for 6 target buildings, with the defaulted works for the first building expected to be completed by mid-2026.
- (4) Regarding the pilot scheme on “defaulted works”, the EAs will first commence the works for 10 target buildings and continuously monitor the progress. The pilot scheme is currently progressing well. The EAs will continue to identify other target buildings to carry out works. It is expected that approximately 20 to 60 buildings will undergo “defaulted works” annually. The estimated expenditure on conducting such works by the FSD and the BD in 2026-27 is \$10.8 million and \$20.07 million² respectively.

- End -

¹ “Target buildings” refer to composite and domestic buildings constructed on or before 1 March 1987, or with the general building plans first submitted to the Building Authority for approval on or before that day.

² As “defaulted works” form part of the BD’s overall duties in implementing the Ordinance, the BD does not maintain a separate breakdown of the expenditure involved solely for the work concerned. This estimated expenditure is earmarked for “defaulted works”, enhanced enforcement and support work.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB128

(Question Serial No. 1436)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In Programme (2) of the Estimates, it is stated that one of the Fire Services Department (FSD)'s tasks is to "process loan applications on fire safety improvement works under the Building Safety Loan Scheme" and to inspect the fire safety conditions of various types of buildings. Regarding the fire safety equipment for supporting persons with hearing impairment, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The numbers of visual fire alarm systems installed inside residential units (non-common part) recorded by the FSD as at the end of each of the past 3 years. Please tabulate the number of equipment and the number of residential units, with a breakdown by public housing, Home Ownership Scheme housing, private residential buildings and composite buildings;
- (b) In the past 3 years, under the Building Safety Loan Scheme, how many applications involved the addition, repair, or replacement of visual fire alarm systems inside residential units (non-common part) for persons with hearing impairment? Among these applications, what were the respective numbers of approved and rejected cases? Please tabulate the figures, with a breakdown by Home Ownership Scheme housing, private residential buildings and composite buildings;
- (c) Does the FSD provide free consultation services on fire safety for the residential units of persons with disabilities? If yes, what are the details? If not, will the FSD consider introducing such services?
- (d) Given that the installation of visual fire alarm systems inside residential units (non-common part) for persons with hearing impairment involves complex works across both common areas and the interior of the residential units, does the Government has resources to assist persons with hearing impairment residing in private properties in carrying out such works?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

- (a) The installation of visual fire alarm systems inside residential units is commonly found in public housing units. The Hong Kong Housing Authority and the Hong Kong Housing Society will install visual fire alarm systems in public housing units upon application by tenants with hearing impairment. The Fire Services Department (FSD) does not require the installation of visual fire alarm systems inside residential units, nor does it maintain records on the numbers of visual fire alarm systems installed inside residential units.
- (b) From 2023 to 2025, the FSD processed a total of 111 applications related to fire safety improvement works under the Building Safety Loan Scheme, none of which involved the addition, repair, or replacement of visual fire alarm systems inside residential units.
- (c) Any person (including persons with disabilities) who wishes to enquire about general fire safety matters or seek relevant advice may contact the FSD via its hotline (2723 8787), email (hkfsdenq@hkfsd.gov.hk), fax (2311 0066), or by visiting any fire station in person. Fire personnel will be pleased to provide fire safety advice. Furthermore, for buildings regulated under the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 502), the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572), and the Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 636), owners and occupiers may enquire about matters related to building fire safety improvement via the FSD Building Improvement Support Centre hotline (2272 9112) or email (fsdbisc@hkfsd.gov.hk), or by visiting the Support Centre in person.
- (d) All owners of private buildings (including domestic, composite, commercial, and industrial buildings) may apply to the Buildings Department for the Building Safety Loan Scheme to carry out maintenance and repair works of buildings to reinstate or improve the safety conditions of their buildings, which includes the improvement or replacement of fire service installations or equipment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB129

(Question Serial No. 2112)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In the wake of the Tai Po fire, the Government should place emphasis on fire safety education and review the current inadequacies in this regard. As mentioned under the Programme, the Government will inculcate a fire safety culture in Hong Kong and encourage greater community involvement in improving fire safety; conduct educational and publicity activities to enhance the awareness of emergency preparedness in the community. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How many resources has the Government allocated in each of the past 3 years for conducting fire safety educational and publicity activities? How much expenditure has the Government set aside for conducting fire safety educational and publicity activities in 2026-27? What are the specific plans?
- (b) Please provide a breakdown of the number of sessions / attendances of teachers and community members participating in fire safety training in each of the past three years.
- (c) With the growing maturity of technologies such as artificial intelligence and virtual reality, will the authorities further leverage technology to promote public disaster prevention education? If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kam-leung, Ken (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

- (a) In terms of fire prevention publicity and education, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has been strengthening public fire safety education and enhancing public awareness of emergency preparedness through various channels (including newspaper interviews, press releases, social media posts and short videos, etc.) as well as organising a wide range of activities in collaboration with different departments and organisations (including open days, Winter Festive Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Activities, carnivals, fire safety talks, and fire drills, etc).

The expenditure of the FSD for conducting fire safety educational and publicity activities over the past 3 years and the estimated expenditure for the current year are tabulated below:

| Year | Expenditure (\$) |
|------|------------------|
| 2023 | 2.18 million |
| 2024 | 1.742 million |
| 2025 | 2.603 million |
| 2026 | 2.499 million |

In terms of enhancing the community's awareness of emergency preparedness, the FSD will continue to strengthen the public's capabilities to respond to emergencies through the following initiatives:

The FSD established the "Fire Services Department Community Collaboration Network" (FSDCCN) in 2022. Members of the FSDCCN include Divisional Commanders of the FSD and chairpersons of the 18 District Fire Safety Committees under the Home Affairs Department. FSDCCN members hold regular meetings to jointly formulate targeted district fire safety strategies and organise district fire and disaster prevention publicity campaigns. In the coming year, the FSD will strengthen district educational and publicity activities through the FSDCCN. It is expected that 5 400 sets of "disaster and emergency preparedness kits" (comprising fire extinguishers, fire blankets, stand-alone fire detectors, and smoke hoods) will be distributed across all districts in Hong Kong in 2026. The FSD will also continue to strengthen district inspections and collaboration efforts, and provide residents with information on fire prevention and emergency preparedness to enhance their emergency readiness.

Furthermore, the FSD will continue to deepen its community-based education and promotional strategies to enhance fire safety awareness and the emergency preparedness of the public. The FSD has launched the "Fire Services Department Community Emergency Responder (FSDCER) Scheme" since December 2024, providing members of the public with training on fire prevention, emergency preparedness, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator, etc., equipping them to be guardians of community safety. As at 28 February 2026, the FSD has recruited 9 392 FSDCERs. The recruitment target is expected to increase to 10 000 FSDCERs in 2026.

Meanwhile, to further enhance the ability of residents and managerial personnel in buildings to respond effectively during the incipient stage of a fire, the FSD has specifically introduced the category of "Building Emergency Responders" under the Scheme to provide specialised training on building fire safety for property management personnel, representatives of owners' corporations, and residents. Such training includes the correct usage, management, and maintenance responsibilities of fire service installations and equipment, as well as key considerations when conducting fire inspections. Besides, these Building Emergency Responders can assist in identifying potential fire hazards within housing estates, participate in fire safety inspections, and report risks to the FSD or property management companies. The FSD plans to provide training for approximately 15 000 licensed property management personnel and 2 000 owners' corporation representatives, residents and security guards within 2026.

- (b) The numbers of sessions / attendances of fire safety training organised by the FSD over the past 3 years are as follows:

| Year | Teachers and students | | Community members | |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| | Session | Attendance | Session | Attendance |
| 2023 | 499 | 36 456 | 912 | 37 880 |
| 2024 | 412 | 29 486 | 960 | 44 338 |
| 2025 | 274 | 18 932 | 942 | 38 909 |
| Total | 1 185 | 84 874 | 2 814 | 121 127 |

The FSD does not maintain relevant attendance figures for teachers at the fire safety training.

- (c) The FSD has been leveraging various technologies for public fire safety education and training. In 2020, the FSD introduced an “Emergency Preparedness Education Bus”, which features a virtual reality game and an interactive firefighting simulation system. Through the experience of escaping from a fire scene, operating fire extinguishers, and using hose reels to put out a fire, etc., participants will understand the “Three Basic Skills on Emergency Preparedness”, namely “Extinguish and Prevent Fire”, “Self-help and Help Others” and “Escape and Evacuate”, thereby enhancing their self-help capabilities.

Besides, the FSD will also incorporate virtual reality elements into community training programmes this year, utilising immersive three-dimensional virtual scenarios to enable participants to experience disaster or incident scenes as if they were on-site. Through multi-sensory simulation involving vision, hearing and other senses, participants will be able to learn the correct self-help and rescue methods, and master emergency skills in a safe environment, thereby strengthening the public’s capabilities to respond.

To enhance community safety education, the FSD is planning to set up two Disaster Prevention Experience Centres in Wan Chai and Tseung Kwan O. The centres will feature physical training facilities and high-tech experiential equipment that simulate various scenarios, focusing on themes such as community life support, fire safety, counter-terrorism preparedness and disaster preparedness, with the aim of equipping the public with comprehensive knowledge of emergency preparedness and enhancing their capabilities to respond to emergencies.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3189)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2026-27, the Fire Services Department (FSD) will continue to conduct community education programme on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs); and continue to enhance public awareness of the importance of public accessible AEDs. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many community education activities on CPR and the use of AEDs are expected to be held in 2026-27? What is the target number of trainees?
2. What is the estimated expenditure for the relevant education programmes? What is the percentage of increase or decrease compared to the previous year?
3. To enhance public awareness of the importance of public accessible AEDs, will the Department strengthen cooperation with District Council members, district-based organisations, schools and elderly centres for promotion? If so, what are the specific forms of cooperation and the resource arrangements involved?

Asked by: Hon YAO Cho-fai, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) actively promotes community education programme on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for the public. In 2026-27, approximately 600 community education activities on CPR and the use of AEDs are expected to be held, with a target of around 25 000 trainees.
2. The FSD's estimated expenditure for the relevant education programmes in 2026-27 is \$310,000, the same as the previous year.

3. The FSD has been committed to enhancing the community's emergency preparedness capability and launched the "AED Anywhere for Anyone" Programme as well as the "Centralized AED Registry for Emergency" (CARE) online platform in June 2021. The Programme aims at increasing the number of public accessible AEDs across the territory, and enhancing the public's awareness and capabilities in using AEDs during emergencies. As at 28 February 2026, more than 370 organisations have installed and registered over 4 200 AEDs on the FSD's CARE website.

To raise public awareness of the importance of public accessible AEDs, the FSD will continue to promote CPR and AED training through various initiatives, including the Resuscitation Alliance, "Press to shock - Save a life" CPR & AED Course, Secondary School Student Digital AED and CPR Experiential Programme, and FSD Community Emergency Responder Scheme. It will also continue to collaborate with various public and private organisations to promote CPR and AED training across all sectors and age groups in society, to ensure comprehensive protection of public safety.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB160

(Question Serial No. 3474)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. How many traffic accidents and fire incidents involving electric vehicles (EVs) were received by the Fire Services Department (FSD) in each of the past 3 years respectively?
2. Did the FSD receive any cases of EV chargers catching fire in each of the past 3 years?
3. Given that the chemical complexity of EV batteries renders EV fires more difficult to handle, one of the approaches is to fully submerge the EV in a pool. Under the current mechanism, where will the pool be set up when it is needed to be used to extinguish an EV fire?
4. The FSD has specially procured EV-specific rescue tools, such as high pressure fog applicators, EV fire blankets and EV battery extinguishing systems, for handling fire incidents involving EVs. What was the expenditure on EV-specific rescue tools in each of the past 3 years?
5. In view of the growing usage of EVs, will the FSD need to increase the relevant budget in the future?

Asked by: Hon CHIK Kit-ling, Elaine (LegCo internal reference no.: 131)

Reply:

1. The numbers of traffic accidents and fire incidents involving electric vehicles (EVs) received by the Fire Services Department (FSD) in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---|------|------|------|
| Fire incidents | 6 | 16 | 18 |
| Traffic accidents (involving trapped individuals) | 37 | 51 | 76 |

2. The numbers of cases of EV chargers catching fires received by the FSD in the past 3 years are tabulated as follow:

| Year | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Fire incidents involving EV chargers | Nil | Nil | 1 |

3. In the event of an EV fire where the battery cannot be effectively cooled despite prolonged water application, the FSD will deploy flood barriers to the incident scene, set up a temporary submersion pool, and submerge the battery at the underside of the vehicle in the water to facilitate cooling and prevent reignition.
4. To strengthen the capability of tackling EV fires, the FSD has introduced a number of specialised tools since 2024, including EV fire blankets, EV battery extinguishing systems, EV emergency plugs¹, flood barriers and others. These tools can effectively manage the risks of battery thermal runaway and reignition, enhancing the safety and efficiency of frontline personnel.

In 2024 and 2025, the FSD's expenditures on the procurement of the above specialised rescue tools amounted to approximately \$900,000 and \$100,000, respectively.

5. As the number of EVs continues to increase, the FSD will monitor overall developments in the sector, make reference to the relevant tools, equipment and training courses available in the market, conduct timely assessments and consider increasing resources and budgets in line with actual operational needs, with a view to continuously enhancing its capacity to handle EV-related incidents.

- End -

¹ EV emergency plugs are used at scenes of fires or traffic accidents involving EVs to prevent the vehicles from moving suddenly. The device can be directly plugged into the charging port of an EV to simulate the charging status of the vehicle, thereby effectively preventing the vehicle from starting or moving with its own power, and enhancing the safety of rescue personnel at the scene.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB161

(Question Serial No. 3360)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (690) Town ambulances (block vote)

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding this subhead, the funding allocation has increased by \$283,378,000 (250.9%) compared with the revised estimate for 2025-26. Please advise on the following:

1. How many town ambulances were procured and replaced over the past 3 years, and what was the expenditure incurred?
2. How many town ambulances will need to be procured and replaced in the next 3 years, what will be the expenditure incurred, and to which ambulance depots will they be allocated?
3. Given the rising demand for emergency ambulance services amid an ageing population, has the authority conducted an analysis of emergency ambulance services data, and what are the long-term deployment plans regarding ambulance depot locations and staffing levels?

Asked by: Hon CHU Lap-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1. The information related to the approved replacement and acquisition of town ambulances for the Fire Services Department (FSD) over the past 3 financial years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of town ambulances approved to be replaced | Number of town ambulances approved to be acquired | Approved provision (\$million) |
|---------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 62 | 39 | 222.18 |
| 2024-25 | 74 | 8 | 179.71 |
| 2025-26 | 84 | - | 228.73 |

The FSD's estimated expenditure for replacement and acquisition of town ambulances for 2026-27 is \$396 million, which will be mainly used to cover the approved expenditure on replacement and acquisition of town ambulances in 2026-27, and also to cover part of the payment of the approved expenditure on replacement and acquisition of town ambulances in previous financial years.

2. The information related to the replacement of town ambulances for the FSD in the coming 3 financial years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Replacement of town ambulances | |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Estimated number | Estimated expenditure (\$million) |
| 2027-28 | 70 | 209.65 |
| 2028-29 | 63 | 188.69 |
| 2029-30 | 52 | 155.74 |

*The estimated expenditure is based on the market valuation of town ambulances as at 18 June 2025

To maintain the age of ambulances at a healthy level and to ensure the overall reliability of the fleet, the FSD will replace town ambulances according to the formulated ambulance replacement plan, and the replacement town ambulances will be allocated to their respective original ambulance depots.

As for the number of town ambulances to be acquired, it will depend on the future growth in staffing levels under the annual resource allocation mechanism.

3. At present, the FSD makes use of big data with the aid of technology to perform continuous analysis and monitoring of the operational data of various types of ambulance vehicles to assess the actual circumstances surrounding ambulance service delivery and the impact of different situations on the demand for ambulance service. The FSD will make appropriate assessments through continuous analysis of the changes of ambulance service-related data, and deploy appropriate ambulance resources (including ambulance facilities and staffing) to meet the demand. In addition, the FSD commissioned a consultancy firm in 2021-22 to conduct a comprehensive review and study on the future development of ambulance service, forecasting the demand of calls over the next 10 years starting from 2022 and providing other relevant suggestions, so as to ensure that the Department can meet its performance pledge in each year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB162

(Question Serial No. 3535)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is stated under Programme (2) of the Estimates that one of the tasks of the Fire Protection Commands is the “registration of fire service installation contractors and Registered Fire Engineers, and monitoring of their performance”. Regarding the implementation of the Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme (the Scheme), will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) of the number of RFEs in the first batch under the Scheme and the estimated number of new RFEs in 2026-27;
- (b) of the estimated annual operational expenses for the monitoring mechanism under which the Fire Protection Commands are responsible for monitoring the performance of RFEs; and
- (c) whether the Government has estimated the amount of recurrent operational expenses to be saved by the Fire Services Department after the full implementation of the Scheme?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Tsz-wing, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

- (a) The “Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme” is now at the stage of accepting applications. The Fire Services Department (FSD) estimates that the numbers of persons currently eligible to apply for registration as an RFE (Risk Assessment) and an RFE (Fire Service Installation) / (Ventilating System) are approximately 200 and 2 000 respectively.
- (b) With the implementation of the Scheme, the FSD will deploy manpower to manage the RFE Scheme through internal resources allocation based on actual needs. The estimated staff-related expenditure for 2026-27 is approximately \$5 million.

- (c) The Government has no intention to cease the existing arrangement of fire safety risk assessment and certification services provided by the FSD after the implementation of the Scheme. The FSD requires that all fire safety requirements formulated by an RFE (Risk Assessment) must be endorsed by the FSD before they are issued to the licence applicants. Furthermore, the FSD will select at least 70% of the premises for which RFEs (Fire Service Installation) or RFEs (Ventilating System) have issued certificates, to conduct audit inspections based on factors including potential fire hazards (e.g. the operation mode and layout design of the premises), etc. Taking these duties into account, the possible manpower and resource savings at the initial implementation stage of the Scheme is limited. In the long run, subject to further evaluation of the effectiveness of the Scheme, the FSD will conduct a comprehensive and holistic review across multiple aspects, including manpower resources, deployment, departmental development and so forth, with a view to enhancing efficiency and aligning with the long-term development of the Department.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB163

(Question Serial No. 3582)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please tabulate the number of drones currently in use or already purchased by the Fire Services Department, their intended purposes and the associated expenditures;
2. What are the Government's plans and budget for expanding the use of drones in 2026-27, as well as the intended uses of these drones? Will the Government explore the feasibility of introducing drones for firefighting purposes in high-rise buildings?
3. According to the Estimates, the Government will replace multiple fireboats and command boats. Please provide details on the basic features (total length, displacement, establishment, maximum service speed), major uses, replacement progress or expected commissioning dates, and the budget for these vessels, and which existing vessels are to be replaced by the newly purchased ones.

Asked by: Hon YIU Pak-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 56)

Reply:

1. Details of the drones procured by the Fire Services Department (FSD) are tabulated below:

| Type | Use | Quantity | Expenditure |
|-----------------------|---|----------|---------------------------|
| Under 25 kilograms | For surveillance, detection and support of daily rescue operations | 46 | Approximately \$5 million |
| 25 kilograms or above | For winching heavy-duty rescue tools to mountainous or inaccessible areas in support of emergency rescue operations | 1 | Approximately \$1 million |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Automated drone docks | For drones capable of conducting autonomous patrols for early fire detection in locations such as rural areas and typhoon shelters | 6 | Approximately \$1 million |
| | | 53 | Approximately \$7 million |

2. The FSD plans to expand the deployment of drones and its related budget, with two key focuses:

Firstly, the FSD plans to strengthen its drone fleet by introducing different types of more advanced and higher-performance drones. The new-generation drones will feature greater payload capacity, enhanced resistance to wind and rain, more sophisticated thermal imaging and zoom lenses, improved flying stability, and more powerful computing capabilities. These enhancements will not only help explore more potential rescue applications, such as using drones to drop water bombs to help suppress vegetation fires, but also enable more effective integration of artificial intelligence (AI) technology, further expanding their potential applications in rescue and fire operations.

Secondly, the FSD is developing the “Drone Patrol System for Emergency Detection”, which integrates automated drone docks with AI technology for dedicated fixed-point surveillance. The system will be capable of detecting early signs of vegetation fires, marine fires, and drowning incidents. It will conduct routine patrols over designated forest or water areas, analysing images in real time to identify smoke, flames, and potential drowning victims. Once signs of an incident are detected, the system will promptly issue alerts and provide precise coordinates, enabling rescue personnel to respond swiftly. The associated budget is as follows:

| Project | Expenditure involved | Expected benefits |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Strengthening the drone fleet | Approximately \$1.5 million | Explore more potential rescue applications, such as using drones to drop water bombs to help suppress vegetation fires, and enable more effective integration of AI technology, further expanding potential applications in rescue and fire operations |
| Drone Patrol System for Emergency Detection | Approximately \$3.5 million | It integrates automated drone docks with AI technology, dedicated to fixed-point surveillance with the aim of detecting early signs of vegetation fires, vessel fires, and drowning incidents. This enables rescue personnel to swiftly identify targets and initiate rescue operations, thereby significantly enhancing rescue efficiency |

As for the application of drones in firefighting, the FSD is actively researching the relevant technologies. At present, firefighting drones remain in the experimental stage

both in Hong Kong and on the Mainland, and are not yet ready for deployment in actual fire scenes. Notwithstanding this, the FSD has maintained close contact with the Mainland fire services departments and drone manufacturers, and has conducted field tests at the Fire and Ambulance Services Academy. It is hoped that once the technology has matured and been proven safe and feasible, Hong Kong will be among the first to introduce drones for firefighting operations, including exploring the feasibility of deploying them in high-rise building fires.

3. Relevant information on various vessel replacement items is tabulated as follows:

| Item | Basic features (total length/ crew capacity/ speed) | Major Use | Expected commissioning date | Approved commitment | Remarks |
|-----------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Diving Support Vessel | 26-29 metres/ 7 persons/ 25 knots | Support diving rescue operations | Second quarter of 2030 | \$220 million | To replace the existing Diving Support Vessel |
| Fireboat No. 3 | 32-34 metres/ 9 persons/ 25 knots | Provide marine firefighting and rescue services | Third quarter of 2029 | \$199 million | To replace the existing Fireboat No. 3 |
| Fireboat No. 5 | 32-34 metres/ 9 persons/ 25 knots | Provide marine firefighting and rescue services | Third quarter of 2029 | \$199 million | To replace the existing Fireboat No. 5 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB003

(Question Serial No. S048)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Bureau mentioned in the reply of SB117 that, to address the danger of fires in electric vehicles (EVs), equipment such as EV fire blankets and EV battery extinguishing systems has been introduced. Furthermore, a specialised course was organised by the Road and Railway Rescue Team of the Fire Services Department, under which more than 400 firemen have obtained the relevant qualification. Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Of the over 400 firemen who possess the relevant specialist knowledge, what percentage of frontline fire personnel do they represent? To date, have they been deployed to fire stations across all 18 districts?
2. Given that EV utilisation and incident risks are relatively higher in districts with heavy cross-boundary traffic, will the Bureau, when allocating its manpower, deploy a higher proportion of specially trained personnel to these areas to ensure that, in the event of a serious battery thermal runaway incident, such personnel can promptly respond to it on-site?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Fu-yung

Reply:

In view of the development of electric vehicles (EVs), all frontline fire personnel of the Fire Services Department have received training in handling EV fires to enhance the overall response capability. Frontline fire personnel with the qualification of the Road and Railway Rescue Team (RRRT) have all been strategically deployed at 13 specially selected fire stations to ensure that regardless of where an incident occurs in the territory, RRRT members can arrive at the scene within a short timeframe to commence rescue operations and provide support. In selecting the locations, consideration was given not only to geographical distribution and the traffic network, but also to the number of traffic accidents in various districts and the conditions of nearby major roads, with a view to enhancing the coverage and response efficiency of the RRRT across different areas.

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