

An incident involving a man being attacked in front of fire appliances (Sham Shui Po)

In the nighttime, two FSD fire appliances were deployed to Sham Shui Po MTR station to attend a No. 2 Alarm Fire. When they passed the junction of Yen Chow Street and Cheung Sha Wan Road, there was a melee going on between a large group of people and a man dressed in white. The former were attacking with wooden clubs, iron rods, iron poles, bamboo sticks, etc. while the latter was wielding a knife. The fight was brutal and intense. At one point, some involved in the violent brawl went so far as to throw multiple objects at the appliances.

In response, the fire personnel tried to sound the sirens on the fire appliances and shouted at the attackers from inside of the appliances in an attempt to stop the assault. A minute or two after this, the man beat a hasty retreat from the rear of the Light Rescue Unit. The fire personnel then resumed their course and proceeded to the scene of the reported fire incident.

The public's disappointment at the failure of the fire personnel at scene to come to the man's assistance right on the spot is understandable. Yet, we hope the public appreciate that the extreme violent incidents and chaotic situations playing out in Hong Kong over the past few months are unprecedented, and that the fire personnel are not in a position to handle violence as they lack similar operational experiences, relevant training and appropriate protective gears.

The FSD will take stock of the experience gained from our operations in the recent public order events so as to enhance our operational guidelines on handling of violent incidents.

(Date Uploaded: 9 December 2019)