

FSD fire appliances deployed as per the request of the Police

The FSD noted that there has been a surge in cases involving arson and requests for emergency assistance in recent public order events. Protesters began to resort to different types of hazardous materials, including petrol bombs and corrosive fluid, to achieve harmful effects. In this context, the FSD will deploy fire appliances to the frontline to render support and enhance operational efficiency upon the request of the Police to back up their operations.

If members of the public, police officers, reporters or protesters are exposed to hazardous materials in public order events, they should undergo on-site decontamination at the first instance to minimise contamination. However, decontamination may not be immediately available due to the lack of water supply near the scene and this may exacerbate the harm done to the affected people. In view of the above, fire appliances will supply water to people in need of immediate decontamination in order to minimise the harm caused by hazardous materials. Under such an arrangement, fire appliances have been deployed by the FSD to render support to frontline police operations and their main duty is to facilitate on-site decontamination for those in need.

Separately, if a fire breaks out in a public order event, fire personnel will draw up firefighting strategies and proceed with subsequent firefighting operations in light of the circumstances at the scene. For other emergency rescue operations in which first responder service is required in the interests of injured persons, fire personnel can help by providing them with appropriate pre-hospital care prior to the arrival of the ambulance crew. No matter it is a decontamination operation, firefighting operation or first responder service, fire personnel will exercise professional judgment, command and conduct the operations, and work in collaboration and coordination with the Police.

The collaboration between the FSD and the Police has commenced since 11 October 2019.

(Date Uploaded: 9 December 2019)