

Red flags lowered at Pui O Beach and Silver Mine Bay Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at regular intervals:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (June 27) that the red flags at Pui O Beach and Silver Mine Bay Beach in Islands District have been lowered and these beaches have been reopened.

These beaches were temporarily closed earlier on after sightings of dead fish from unidentified sources.

Hong Kong Air Pollutant Emission Inventory for 2017 published

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (June 27) published the 2017 Air Pollutant Emission Inventory for Hong Kong.

Every year, the EPD compiles an annual local emission inventory for six key air pollutants, namely sulphur dioxide (SO₂); nitrogen oxides (NO_x); respirable suspended particulates (RSP or PM₁₀); fine suspended particulates (FSP or PM_{2.5}); volatile organic compounds (VOC) and carbon monoxide (CO), and analyses the data according to the emission sources including power plants, vessels, motor vehicles, aviation and other combustion sources.

Hong Kong's total emissions in 2017 were 16 160 tonnes of SO₂, 84 960 tonnes of NO_x, 4 020 tonnes of RSP, 3 120 tonnes of FSP, 25 520 tonnes of VOC and 57 110 tonnes of CO. Due to the ongoing control measures for power plants, vessels and motor vehicles, the emissions of SO₂, NO_x, RSP and FSP in 2017 were reduced by 7 to 9 per cent compared to the 2016 levels, and have been reduced by 34 to 80 per cent since 2001.

Details of the 2017 Air Pollutant Emission Inventory and the 2017 Air Pollutant Emission Inventory Report can be found at www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/air/data/emission_inve.html.

Lifesaving services suspended at some beaches

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at regular intervals:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (June 27) that due to an insufficient number of lifeguards on duty, the lifesaving services at Golden Beach, Cafeteria New Beach and Cafeteria Old Beach in Tuen Mun District have been suspended until further notice.

First aid service will be maintained at the beaches.

Employers and employees should take precautions against heat stroke

As the Hong Kong Observatory has issued the Very Hot Weather Warning, the Labour Department (LD) reminds employers and employees to take appropriate precautions to prevent heat stroke when working in a hot or humid environment.

Heat stroke could occur if an employee works in a hot or humid environment for prolonged periods of time, as the body may fail to regulate its temperature by effective heat dissipation through sweating.

The symptoms of heat-related illnesses include feeling thirsty, fatigue, nausea, headache, dizziness, muscle spasm or even confusion, and loss of consciousness or convulsion in severe cases.

Construction workers, cleaning workers, kitchen workers and porters, for example, are more prone to heat stroke as they may be working for long hours in such an environment, especially if appropriate preventive measures have not been taken.

The LD reminds employers to arrange for a suitable assessment of the risk of heat stress in the work environment and take appropriate preventive measures. The LD has produced two leaflets entitled "Checklist for Heat Stress Assessment at Construction Sites" and "Checklist for Heat Stress

Assessment at Outdoor Cleansing Workplaces" respectively. Employers engaged in construction or outdoor cleaning work are advised to refer to these checklists in assessing the risk of heat stress at their workplaces. As for heat stress assessment at a workplace in general, employers can refer to a booklet entitled "Risk Assessment for the Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work" produced by the LD.

The LD also reminds employers and employees to take the following precautions to prevent heat stroke:

Employers

- (1) Take heed of the weather report and adopt shift work arrangements for employees to reduce their exposure to the hot environment, or arrange appropriate rest breaks for them during very hot periods;
- (2) Avoid working under direct sunlight and set up temporary sunshade wherever possible;
- (3) Provide cool potable water for employees at all times during work. If necessary, provide drinks containing minerals for employees to replenish loss of electrolytes during profuse sweating;
- (4) Minimise physical demands by using tools or mechanical aids at work;
- (5) Increase air flow by enhancing ventilation or air-conditioning as appropriate;
- (6) Isolate heat-generating facilities at the workplace and use insulating materials to minimise heat dissipation to the other work areas; and
- (7) Provide relevant information and training for employees on heat stroke such as preventive measures and first aid treatment.

Employees

- (1) Wear clothing made of suitable materials (for example, cotton) that is loose-fitting and light-coloured to help heat dissipation, minimise heat absorption and allow sweat evaporation;
- (2) Wear a wide-brimmed hat when working outdoors;
- (3) Drink plenty of water or other appropriate beverages to replenish the fluids and electrolytes lost through sweating; and
- (4) Whenever there are any symptoms of heat-related illnesses, inform supervisors and take appropriate actions immediately.

Some employees may have difficulty in adapting to a hot working environment owing to their own health conditions. Employers should take this into account and consider the recommendations of their doctors when assigning work to these employees.

In addition to the publications on risk assessment, the LD has produced a leaflet entitled "Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work in a Hot Environment" for the public. The publications can be obtained free of charge from the offices of the Occupational Health Service of the LD, or downloaded from the department's webpage at www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/content2_9.htm.

The LD organises occupational health talks in public places and at its

own training venues regularly to raise employers' and employees' awareness of occupational health. Details of health talks on the prevention of heat stroke at work in a hot environment in June to September are as follows:

(A)

Dates: July 5, 18 and 29, August 13, 15 and 26, September 5, 17 and 27

(am);

July 2, 11 and 24, August 5, 20 and 29, September 9 and 24

(pm)

Time: Half-day

Venue: Occupational Safety and Health Training Centre of the Labour Department, 13/F, KOLOUR·Tsuen Wan I, 68 Chung On Street, Tsuen Wan, New Territories

(B)

Dates: July 15 and 26, August 9 and 27

Time: Half-day, morning

Venue: Occupational Safety and Health Centre of the Labour Department, G/F, Kwun Tong Community Health Centre Building, 60 Hip Wo Street, Kwun Tong (MTR Kwun Tong Station Exit A1)

(C)

Date: July 24 and August 26

Time: 3pm to 4:30pm

Venue: Lecture Hall, Hong Kong Space Museum, 10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon (MTR Tsim Sha Tsui Station Exit E)

For enrolment or enquiries about these occupational health talks, please call 2852 4040 or 2361 8240 (for talks organised at the Occupational Safety and Health Centre). Moreover, the LD also provides an outreach health education service and occupational health nurses will, on invitation, disseminate occupational health information at workplaces at a convenient time. Please contact the nursing officer at 2852 4062 for details. All these health talks are free of charge.

LegCo Finance Committee meeting

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The meeting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Finance Committee originally scheduled at 3pm tomorrow (June 28) in Conference Room 1 of the LegCo Complex will be held at 3.30pm (or an earlier time between 3.15pm and 3.30pm).