

Firing practice for June 2019

Firing practice will take place at two military sites, namely the San Wai/Tai Ling Firing Range and the Tsing Shan Firing Range, next month (June).

Red flags or red lamps will be hoisted at the firing areas before and during firing practice. For their safety, people are advised not to enter the firing area.

Following are the dates and times for the firing practice sessions in June 2019:

San Wai/Tai Ling Firing Range

| Date | Time |
|---------------------|---------|
| June 3 (Monday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 4 (Tuesday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 5 (Wednesday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 6 (Thursday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 10 (Monday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 11 (Tuesday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 12 (Wednesday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 13 (Thursday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 14 (Friday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 17 (Monday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 18 (Tuesday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 19 (Wednesday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 20 (Thursday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 21 (Friday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 24 (Monday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 25 (Tuesday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 26 (Wednesday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 27 (Thursday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 28 (Friday) | 8am-9pm |

Tsing Shan Firing Range

| Date | Time |
|------|------|
|------|------|

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| June 3 (Monday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 4 (Tuesday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 5 (Wednesday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 6 (Thursday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 10 (Monday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 11 (Tuesday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 12 (Wednesday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 13 (Thursday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 14 (Friday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 17 (Monday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 18 (Tuesday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 19 (Wednesday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 20 (Thursday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 21 (Friday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 24 (Monday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 25 (Tuesday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 26 (Wednesday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 27 (Thursday) | 8am-9pm |
| June 28 (Friday) | 8am-9pm |

Key statistics on service demand of A&E Departments and occupancy rates in public hospitals

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

During the service demand surge, the Hospital Authority is closely monitoring the service demand of Accident and Emergency Departments and the occupancy rate in public hospitals. Key service statistics are being issued daily for public information. Details are in the attached table.

Red flags hoisted at some beaches

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (May 27) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Shek O Beach and Big Wave Bay Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island; and Clear Water Bay

First Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at these beaches.

Make prior work arrangements for rainstorms

The Labour Department (LD) today (May 27) reminded employers to make prior work arrangements for staff during and after rainstorms.

"To avoid disputes and confusion, employers should make prior work arrangements for staff and contingency measures during and after rainstorms," an LD spokesman said.

"In working out and enforcing the arrangements, employers should give prime consideration to employees' safety both in the workplace and during their journeys to and from work, and adopt a flexible approach. Whenever possible, they should consult their staff."

The work arrangements should cover the following matters:

- * Whether employees are required to report for duty when different rainstorm warnings are issued;
- * How wages and allowances will be calculated for staff who are required to report for duty, as well as those who are late for work or absent from work during rainstorms;
- * For employees who are required to travel to and from workplaces during rainstorms, whether transport facilities will be provided for them and, if so, the arrangements; and
- * The time for staff who have not reported for duty to resume work after a rainstorm warning is cancelled, and other relevant arrangements as well as contingency measures.

"Employers should make realistic assessments of the requirements for staff and require only absolutely essential staff to report for duty in adverse weather conditions. If an Amber, Red or Black Rainstorm Warning is issued during working hours, employees working indoors should remain on duty as usual and stay where they are unless it is dangerous to do so. Supervisors of employees working outdoors in exposed areas should suspend outdoor duties as soon as practicable. They should arrange for their employees to take shelter temporarily and resume duty when weather conditions permit. When the Black Rainstorm Warning is issued, those employees should not resume duty until the warning is lowered and weather conditions permit. If the Black Rainstorm Warning remains in force at the end of working hours, for safety reasons, employers should provide employees with an area in the workplace as temporary shelter for them to stay if they want to.

"If possible, employers should provide transport services for employees who are still required to travel to and from workplaces when the Black Rainstorm Warning is in force, or give them a special travelling allowance as encouragement.

"For staff who have practical difficulties in resuming work on time upon cancellation of a rainstorm warning, employers should give due consideration to the circumstances of individual employees and handle each case flexibly.

"As rainstorms are natural occurrences that cannot be avoided, employers should not deduct wages of employees who are absent from or late for work because of inclement weather. Neither should employers dismiss an employee summarily based on these grounds," he said.

The spokesman also reminded employers to observe the statutory liabilities and requirements under the Employment Ordinance, the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance, the Employees' Compensation Ordinance and the Minimum Wage Ordinance.

Employers should not deduct the annual leave, statutory holidays or rest days employees are entitled to under the Employment Ordinance so as to compensate for the loss of working hours resulting from employees' failure to report for duty upon the announcement of a Black Rainstorm Warning. An employer who without reasonable excuse fails to comply with relevant provisions under the Employment Ordinance is liable to prosecution.

Employers should also note that they have an obligation to maintain a safe workplace for their employees under the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance.

"If employees are required to work in times of rainstorms, employers should ensure that the risks at work are properly controlled and reduced to levels that are as low as reasonably practicable," the spokesman said.

Under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, employers are liable to pay compensation for deaths or injury incurred when employees are travelling by a direct route from their residence to their workplace, or from their workplace back to their residence after work, four hours before or after working hours on a day when Typhoon Signal No. 8 or above or a Red or Black Rainstorm Warning is in force.

To provide practical guidelines and samples of work arrangements for the reference of employers and employees, the LD has issued the booklet "Code of Practice in times of Typhoons and Rainstorms". The booklet can be obtained from branch offices of the Labour Relations Division or downloaded from the department's webpage (www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/wcp/Rainstorm.pdf).

Flag-raising ceremony cancelled

Owing to the thunderstorm warning, the flag-raising ceremony to be conducted at Golden Bauhinia Square, Wan Chai at 8am today (May 27) will be cancelled.