

LCQ10: Use of automated external defibrillator

Following is a question by Professor Hon Joseph Lee and a written reply by the Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, in the Legislative Council today (October 24):

Question:

It has been learnt that when a person has become unconscious because he is suffering from a heart attack, his survival rate may significantly increase if people at the scene immediately perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid on him with the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). It has been reported that in recent months, a member of the public had fallen unconscious in a public sports ground but the staff at the scene did not know how to use an AED to perform first aid on that person. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it knows the existing number of people in Hong Kong who have received the following two types of first aid training: CPR and use of AEDs;
- (2) of the number and details of distribution of AEDs provided in public venues managed by the Government (broken down by District Council district); the number of times for which such AEDs were used, and the number of persons who suffered sudden heart attack at such venues but people at the scene did not perform first aid on them with the use of AEDs, in the past three years;
- (3) as some members of the public are worried that improper use of AEDs may aggravate the conditions of the patients and, as a result, they have to bear legal liabilities, whether the authorities will make reference to the practices of overseas countries and enact a Good Samaritan law to exempt rescuers from legal liabilities that might be incurred in performing first aid, so as to encourage members of the public to perform timely first aid on those in need at the scene; and
- (4) whether policies are currently in place to promote the wider use of AEDs, including training more members of the public to use the device, and encouraging more private organisations to provide AEDs at venues under their management?

Reply:

President,

My reply to the various parts of the question raised by the Professor Hon Joseph Lee is as follows:

- (1) Various organisations have been offering first aid courses to teach

participants first aid knowledge. As far as government departments and public bodies are concerned, relevant first aid courses are organised by the Department of Health (DH), the Hospital Authority (HA), the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS).

The DH regularly organises Basic Life Support Provider Courses covering cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) for its healthcare staff to enhance their knowledge of various first aid methods. From 2013 to 2017, the DH organised a total of 369 such courses for its healthcare staff with 2 979 attendances.

The three training centres of the HA which are accredited by the American Heart Association have been providing courses on basic life support and advanced cardiovascular life support. The courses, which cover CPR and the use of AEDs, aim to enhance the knowledge of HA staff and the public in handling heart attack and the first aid for it. In 2017-18, the HA organised such courses for 10 595 staff, as well as 2 077 other non-HA healthcare personnel and members of the public.

Since 1999, the FSD has trained over 32 000 people under its community CPR training courses. Starting from April 2017, the FSD has also introduced the "Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training Programme in Campus" to secondary schools in Hong Kong, under which secondary school students and staff are taught about CPR and the importance of its early application, and are encouraged to resuscitate cardiac arrest patients during emergencies. To date, about 6 400 staff and students have participated in and received training under the Programme.

Besides, from June 2017, the FSD has rolled out the "Community Awareness on Responding to Emergency" (CARE) Programme, which is a simplified course that teaches the public general knowledge about CPR and AED. So far, about 2 100 people have participated in the Programme. The FSD has launched in August 2017 the "Press to shock – Save a life" Public Access Defibrillation Course, which covers the application of CPR and AED in a comprehensive and detailed manner, and over 4 400 members of the public have completed the course.

Starting from January 2016, the AMS has provided CPR and AED training to 8 600 of its members as well as members of the public. Besides, from 2017 to 2018, the Civil Aid Service has provided the aforementioned training to 437 of its members.

(2) The number of AEDs installed at public facilities/establishments as at September 2018 and their usage in the past three years are listed in the Annex.

(3) & (4) There is currently no legislation in Hong Kong providing for the exemption of rescuers from legal liabilities that might be incurred in performing first aid. The issue of whether such legislation should be introduced requires thorough discussion among relevant policy bureaux, departments and stakeholders, taking into consideration various factors and requisite conditions, including the public awareness of heart attack and

their knowledge of the first aid for it, as well as the level of first aid training of rescuers.

The Government has been carrying out through different channels public promotion on CPR and the use of AEDs, and providing training in this regard.

Since mid-2017, the FSD has rolled out the CARE Programme and the "Press to shock – Save a life" Public Access Defibrillation Course, so as to teach the public knowledge about AED and the application techniques, in the hope that when a patient suffers from a cardiac arrest, members of the public can immediately resuscitate the patient and increase the patient's survival rate. Besides, the FSD has established the Community Emergency Preparedness Division in October 2018 with a view to introducing new elements into public education on fire prevention and ambulance services, including strengthening the public's knowledge on CPR and the use of AED.

The Accident and Emergency Training Centre of the HA will continue to provide various types of emergency medical training courses, including courses on CPR and the use of AEDs, for HA staff and members of the public.

The Government will continue to collaborate with other public and private organisations through various means for the publicity, promotion, education and training on first aid skills.

InvestHK promotes Hong Kong's business advantages during Beijing-Hong Kong Economic Cooperation Symposium

Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) co-hosted a seminar entitled "Beijing and Hong Kong's cooperation in the Belt and Road Initiative" during the Beijing-Hong Kong Economic Cooperation Symposium in Beijing today (October 24), updating the business community on the opportunities Hong Kong has to offer, in particular in its professional services.

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, also attended the seminar. Addressing the audience, the Director-General of Investment Promotion, Mr Stephen Phillips, said that the "one country, two systems" arrangement ensures that Hong Kong retains a series of enduring advantages, including a vibrant business environment, a robust legal system, world-class intellectual property protection and deep, world-class financial and professional services, plus the recently introduced two-tier tax system aimed at attracting businesses to set up in the city.

He added that Hong Kong also appeals to Mainland and foreign companies

with a range of innovation and technology policy and support initiatives including a super tax deduction of up to 300 per cent for R&D expenditure and a new listing regime allowing pre-revenue biotechnology companies and innovative companies with weighted voting rights structures to list on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

Mr Phillips said Hong Kong's legal services and related infrastructure, as well as its branding, design and business consultancy services, are attracting Mainland Chinese and overseas companies.

In terms of the business opportunities Hong Kong has to offer amid the Belt and Road Initiative, he said, "You can leverage Hong Kong's world-class financial and professional services to structure and finance projects and mergers and acquisitions deals, and access the very best accounting and tax, legal, construction engineering design, management and project planning, and much more. And, of course, tap into Hong Kong's deep debt and equity capital markets. All underpinned by Hong Kong's common law system, which also makes Hong Kong a very suitable location for dispute resolution too."

Mr Phillips concluded, "I would strongly urge you to capture these exciting opportunities and make use of Hong Kong to realise your international ambitions."

About InvestHK

InvestHK is the department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government responsible for attracting foreign direct investment and supporting overseas and Mainland businesses to set up or expand in Hong Kong. It provides free advice and customised services for overseas and Mainland companies enrolled as its clients. For more information, please visit www.investhk.gov.hk.

Company director convicted for giving false or misleading information to Companies Registry

A director of Rightful Mortgage Limited (the Company) was prosecuted by the Companies Registry (CR) under section 750(6) of the Companies Ordinance for knowingly or recklessly giving false or misleading information to the Registrar of Companies in connection with an application for deregistration of the Company. The director, Ken Lee Sai-cheung, pleaded guilty at Eastern Magistrates' Courts today (October 24) and was fined \$15,000 for the charge.

The case relates to false information provided by the defendant in the

application form which was lodged with the CR for deregistration of the Company. Contrary to the certification made by the defendant in the application form that the Company was not a party to any legal proceedings and that it had no outstanding liabilities, the Company was reported to be the defendant in a High Court proceeding and there was an adverse costs order granted against the Company.

"The ruling helps disseminate a strong message to all companies and their officers that they have the responsibility to ensure that the information given to the Registrar must not be false or misleading. Any provision of false or misleading information to the CR may attract a fine of \$300,000 and imprisonment for up to two years," a spokesman for the CR said.

LCQ12: Recovery and repair works after typhoons

Following is a question by the Hon Cheung Kwok-kwan and a written reply by the Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee, in the Legislative Council today (October 24):

Question:

During its onslaught on Hong Kong last month, super typhoon Mangkhut caused extensive damage, which included damage to the structures on buildings' external walls, toppling of numerous trees, severe flooding in coastal areas and sports grounds sustaining serious damage. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) as the storm surges accompanying Mangkhut caused severe flooding and damage to a number of facilities in Heng Fa Chuen, whether the Government has studied measures for helping Heng Fa Chuen withstand storm surges accompanying super typhoons in future; if so, of the outcome of such studies; if not, whether it will conduct such studies immediately;

(2) as a huge amount of marine refuse (e.g. bits of foam plastics) was washed ashore by the storm surges accompanying Mangkhut, whether the Government knows the major sources of such refuse, and what measures it has put in place to reduce such kind of refuse at source;

(3) as the number of service orders for clearance of fallen trees received by some arboriculture companies after the typhoon had moved away from Hong Kong was five to 10 times more than usual but such companies did not have sufficient manpower to cope with the service demand, resulting in the handling of some cases, despite their urgent nature, having to be scheduled for next month, whether the Government has approached the arboriculture

companies concerned to gain an understanding of the details of such cases; whether it has set a target completion date for the clearance work of fallen trees across the territory; of the government departments currently responsible for handling emergency clearance of fallen trees, and the proportion of outsourcing of such work by each of these departments;

(4) given that the Aberdeen Sports Ground was seriously damaged during the onslaught of super typhoon Hato in August last year, of the reasons why the relevant restoration works have not yet commenced so far, and when such works will commence and be completed; the expected completion time for the restoration works for Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground which has been damaged by Mangkhut; and

(5) given that after the onslaught of typhoons, government departments often need to rent lorry-mounted cranes from private companies to remove tottering structures (e.g. signboards) high on external walls of buildings and broken branches of trees, whether the Government will purchase such type of vehicle so as to facilitate expeditious commencement of such clearance work after the onslaught of typhoons?

Reply:

President,

Government departments have been making all-out effort in the post-Mangkhut recovery work without delay. As the damages caused by Mangkhut were extensive, some repair works are still ongoing. The relevant departments will continue to follow up the situation.

I have consulted the relevant bureaux and departments and the consolidated reply to the questions raised by the Hon Cheung Kwok-kwan is as follows:

(1) When the super typhoon Mangkhut battered Hong Kong, the storm surge and huge waves caused by the typhoon brought seawater into Heng Fa Chuen and led to flooding. Based on the experience of handling super typhoon Mangkhut, the Government will review the feasibility of various flood prevention strategies and make various assessments, including practical effectiveness, technical feasibility, land restrictions and cost-effectiveness.

In respect of the damages caused at Heng Fa Chuen, the Civil Engineering and Development Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department and Architectural Services Department are examining the possibility and proposals of strengthening the wave prevention facilities in the playgrounds, for instance, to consider the installation of wave protection wall at the coastal planter areas of the playgrounds, with a view to enhancing the resistance to storm surge. With regard to the issue of flooding, the Civil Engineering and Development Department and Drainage Services Department will provide technical engineering advice to the estate management company of Heng Fa Chuen.

ã€€ã€€Civil Engineering and Development Department will conduct a comprehensive review of the situation of coastal low-lying or unsheltered areas. Studies on typhoon related storm surge and waves will also be conducted to assess how the extreme weather caused by climate change will affect the concerned areas. Relevant response and resilience measures can be formulated in accordance with the result of the studies, including engineering improvement and management measures.

(2) The Government understands that foam boxes and components are widely used in the delivery of goods that require thermal insulation or shock resistance, for instance, most of the refrigerated food products (meats, vegetables, fruits and seafood), packaging of fragile goods (electrical appliances and electronic devices), one-off utensils (meal box) and fisheries related products etc. We cannot ascertain the source of foams found in Heng Fa Chuen. The strong destructive power of super typhoon Mangkhut might have brought foams from different sources. Possible sources of foam fragments include mari-culture rafts, fishponds and some fishing boats as they had suffered varied damages during the typhoon.

ã€€ã€€Seafood wholesaling uses foam boxes usually near the coastal areas. We have been in communication with the Fish Marketing Organization, which manages the wholesale fish markets, in order to manage the use of foam boxes. Foam boxes are generally recycled for carrying fish catches. The Fish Marketing Organization always reminds fishmongers and other fish market users to take appropriate measures, such as tying the foam boxes and placing them away from the shore, preventing the boxes from falling into the sea.

ã€€ã€€Various departments have implemented a wide array of measures under their purviews, including enforcement patrols and on-site monitoring, strengthening the clearance of marine refuse, promoting publicity and education activities, providing support measures and facilities to reduce waste from entering the marine environment. We will continue to communicate with the departments and strengthen the management on the use of foam boxes.

(3) The damages of Mangkhut to Hong Kong were extensive and unprecedented, causing collapses of trees which led to road blockages. The Highways Department accorded high priority to the swift resumption of traffic, and has deployed a large number of manpower from their contractors, including workers and machinery operators, to handle the emergency recovery and repair works in the major thoroughfare, district streets, cycling tracks and roadside slopes. Of major importance was to clean up the collapsed trees and debris that blocked the road expeditiously, so as to restore normal traffic as soon as possible. As a result, all major thoroughfare and roads leading to/from bus depots were reopened on September 18. The remaining roads blocked by fallen trees were also cleaned and re-opened on or before September 22. The relevant clearance operations were carried out by workers employed by the contractors, but not workers employed directly by the Highways Department.

ã€€ã€€For public areas other than the abovementioned major thoroughfare and roads, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and Home Affairs Department have also enhanced their

manning, deploying staff and contractors to clean up fallen trees under their purviews in full strength, with priority accorded to blocked carriageways, pedestrian pavements, and potentially dangerous trees to reduce public risks and inconvenience. The Government has also deployed workers to check the health of trees and arranged measures to alleviate risks, including tree supporting, pruning and cleaning. The clearance of fallen trees with lower risk and not affecting the public are in progress.

(4) Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground was battered by Typhoon Mangkhut. Major facilities inside the venue including the power supply installation, covers of the spectator stands, field tracks and grass pitches, etc were severely damaged. In view of public safety, the Sports Ground is now temporarily closed. Following deliberation with the Architectural Services Department, the enhancement works for the covers of the spectator stands originally scheduled in the first quarter of 2019 will be conducted earlier, together with the reparation works of the grass pitches and enhancement works of the outer perimeter fencing for the purposes of mitigating the damages caused by flooding. The Sports Ground is expected to be re-opened in mid-2019.

Concerning the Aberdeen Sports Ground, some covers of its west spectator stand were destroyed after typhoon Hato in August 2017. With reinforcement by the works departments, the damaged stand was reopened in November 2017. However, the stand was damaged again by typhoon Mangkhut and emergency demolition was required. The demolition work has been generally completed. Pending inspection by works departments on affected running tracks and upon completion of the recovery work, the sports ground is expected to be re-opened in November 2018. Works departments are following up the situation and arranging a new cover for the west spectator stand.

(5) The government fleet currently consists of crane lorries or grab lorries managed and used by various government departments. The Government Logistics Department also arranges service contracts for the hiring of grab lorries for the use by various departments. Departments can put up requests for the purchase of such vehicles or arrange vehicle hiring service on their own to meet their operational needs with reference to the experience drawn from super typhoon Mangkhut.

Take the Buildings Department as an example. The contractors employed by the department, as enshrined in the contract, must be able to provide a certain number of crane lorries at any time for emergency works. Drawing reference from the experience in the handling of super typhoon Mangkhut, the Buildings Department will request the contractors to provide more mobile crane machinery in future contracts, so as to enhance the emergency service efficiency.

Hong Kong and Fiji sign Customs Co-operative Arrangement (with photos)

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service, Mr Visvanath Das, signed the Customs Co-operative Arrangement (CCA) at the Customs Headquarters Building in Hong Kong today (October 24), with an aim of stepping up mutual co-operation in law enforcement and trade facilitation.

The CCA reflects both sides' wishes to strengthen co-operation in intelligence exchanges and law enforcement by means of mutual administrative assistance in battling transnational crimes.

Apart from co-operation in law enforcement, both sides would also strengthen information sharing to facilitate co-operation in trade facilitation, import/export controls and procedure streamlining with an aim of creating a business-friendly environment for legitimate trade activities.

Currently, Hong Kong Customs has signed Customs Co-operative Agreements/Arrangements with 25 customs administrations, consisting of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China and 24 overseas customs administrations.

