

Clean up work continues apace in wake of Super Typhoon Mangkhut

A spokesman for the Government said today (September 21) that Government departments and their contractors will continue their follow-up work over the weekend following the passage of Super Typhoon Mangkhut, including removing fallen trees and debris and repairing damaged facilities.

Details are as follows:

Leisure facilities, parks and beaches

After the passage of typhoon, a total of 17 000 fallen trees under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department's (LCSD) management have to be removed. Staff of the LCSD and contractors immediately inspected the trees under the department's management and arranged trimming and clearing of those affected. Priority has been given to clearing fallen trees and broken branches which may cause obstruction to roads affecting traffic and pedestrians to allow access to main roads as soon as possible. The department is deploying about 900 staff and workers of its contractors every day to remove fallen trees to ensure public safety. In view of the extensive and severe damage caused by the typhoon to trees in all districts, the department will continue to deploy more manpower to handle the work to minimise the risk and inconvenience that may be caused to the public.

As of noon today, 12 land-based leisure facilities, four campsites, three water sports centres and all gazetted beaches under the management of the LCSD are still temporarily closed as more time is needed for clearance and repair works. In addition, some parks and outdoor facilities are partially open as some of the facilities are damaged and trees have collapsed. Members of the public are urged not to enter cordoned off areas for safety's sake. For those who plan to enjoy the moonlight at LCSD's outdoor venues should refer to the department's announcements on the affected venues. The LCSD will continue its effort to conduct clearance and repair works with a view to reopening the facilities for public use as soon as possible.

Facilities of all LCSD's beaches have been seriously damaged by the typhoon and all beaches are still temporarily closed until further notice. Red flags have been hoisted at the beaches. Members of the public are advised not to swim, barbeque, enjoy the moonlight or participate in other activities at the beaches for the sake of safety. The beaches will be reopened to the public after completion of thorough clearance and repair works.

Street cleansing

In the aftermath of Super Typhoon Mangkhut, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) immediately deployed extra manpower and vehicles

for the clearance of waste and debris. From September 17 to 20, about 8 000 staff including civil servants and workers engaged by contractors, were deployed each day to remove typhoon debris which included fallen twigs and leaves, as well as other cleansing services. Over the past four days, the FEHD has cleared some 1700 lorry loads of typhoon debris with a total weight of around 4 000 tonnes.

The FEHD will continue to keep a close watch on the situation and work hand in hand with relevant government departments. Priority will be accorded to major thoroughfares, carriageways of central business districts, school areas, access roads to refuse collection points, residential areas and non-gazetted beaches for clearance of debris, and every effort will be made to complete the cleansing work as soon as possible. Owing to the heavy rain brought about by Super Typhoon Mangkhut, the public should remove stagnant water, rubbish and disused articles as soon as possible to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds thoroughly.

Waste and sewage treatment

Super Typhoon Mangkhut slammed into Hong Kong, generating huge amount of broken or fallen trees and other debris. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has deployed more resources and manpower to various waste handling facilities and refuse transfer stations (RTS), increased the marine trips for transferring waste between the West New Territories (WENT) Landfill and RTSs, disseminated information on waiting time at RTS and other important messages through waste-hauling representatives associations, and flexibly extended the operation hours of all RTSs (excluding the Outlying Island Transfer Facilities) as follows:

Island East Transfer Station: until 1.30am
Island West Transfer Station: until 1.30am
Shatin Transfer Station: until 1am
West Kowloon Transfer Station: until 1am
North Lantau Transfer Station: until 00.30am
North West New Territories Transfer Station: until 9pm

To give priority to clearing tree waste and to improve the waiting time of waste collection vehicles at various RTSs, the Government has set up a temporary wood waste collection area in the Kai Tak Development Area (the Collection Area). The public may deliver broken trees and branches (without any municipal solid waste) to the Collection Area for temporary stockpiling. No prior appointment for using the Collection Area is required. The Collection Area will be open from today (September 21) round the clock until 6pm on September 30. Thereafter, it will open daily from 9am to 6pm until further notice.

The EPD will take out a portion of the stockpiled materials suitable for processing into compost or for use by the Organic Resource Recycling Centre Phase I situated at Siu Ho Wan. Starting from tomorrow (September 22) until further notice, members of the public who are interested in using such materials may register with the EPD by calling the hotline (3741 1823 or 3741

1822) from 9am to 5pm.

Following Super Typhoon Mangkhut, the Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works were found to be seriously damaged and it will require several months to resume its full secondary treatment service. At present, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) has arranged an additional process to disinfect the primary-treated sewage, and will install a temporary pipe in about one to two weeks' time to divert the disinfected sewage into a submarine outfall for dispersed discharge and dilution. To further improve the situation, the DSD also intends to install some temporary facilities in four weeks' time to upgrade the treatment process to chemically enhanced primary sedimentation level. In addition, the pressurised sewage pipes at Mills and Chung Path, Deep Water Bay Barbecue Area and Tai Tau Chau of Shek O were also damaged, leading to the discharge of sewage. The repair works are expected to complete within three weeks.

The LCSD announced on September 17 the temporary closure of Kiu Tsui Beach, Trio Beach, Hap Mun Bay Beach, Deep Water Bay Beach and Shek O Beach. The DSD and the EPD are arranging to conduct seawater sampling and testing at locations close to the Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works and the above beaches, and will release the results at the DSD's website. The public are advised to avoid recreational activities, angling or seawater abstraction in the potentially affected sea or waterfront areas at Inner Port Shelter and the aforementioned beaches.

In addition, although seaward areas along the shoreline of Sai Kung are not prohibited from extracting seawater for rearing live marine fish intended for human consumption, given the circumstances that the seawater quality there may have been affected, restaurant operators should consider using synthetic seawater by mixing marine salt and tap water for rearing live marine fish instead. The trade should also ensure the proper operation and maintenance of the filtration and disinfection facilities for fish tank water, in order to maintain the seawater quality for rearing marine fish at a satisfactory standard.

Waterworks

The Water Supplies Department (WSD) has completed emergency repair works at most of the waterworks damaged or affected by power outages during the Super Typhoon Mangkhut. However, many parts of the pipe network providing fresh water supply to Tap Mun, Kat O and Ap Chau were damaged. The WSD has completed some of the emergency repair works, but for damaged water mains located in remote areas, the blockage of access caused by fallen trees or other factors has added difficulties to these repair works. The WSD will continue to carry out repair works as soon as possible. At present, the fresh water supply in Tap Mun has been resumed. While fresh water supply to Kat O and Ap Chau has not yet been resumed, the WSD has been providing bottled water to residents during the water suspension period. The WSD has also arranged delivery of water tanks today to strengthen temporary water supply in the area.

The WSD noted that fresh water supply to some individual housing estates had been suspended due to damage to their inside service. The WSD has contacted the management offices of these housing estates and has provided temporary water supply to residents (e.g. water wagons, water tanks or stand pipes).

Slopes

The Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) has received and followed up a total of 19 landslide incidents. These slopes currently pose no imminent danger while the respective repair and restoration works have already commenced. However, if members of the public discover imminent danger of any slope, please report to the Police and stay away from the slope concerned. Other landslide incidents should be reported to the Government Hotline 1823.

Trees

The super typhoon has caused huge amounts of tree deformation and breakage. The Tree Management Office (TMO) of the Development Bureau has asked tree management departments to immediately carry out site inspection and undertake precautionary measures, such as removing hanging branches and unstable trees, guying or cordoning off trees pending remedial works, in a timely manner to protect public safety. Tree management departments have inspected most of the trees in high traffic and high pedestrian flow areas. The TMO has also reminded private property owners, owners' corporations and property management companies to do the same. In the case of any imminent danger caused by trees, members of the public are requested to make a report to the Police. Other tree cases should be reported to the Government Hotline 1823.

Transport

Super Typhoon Mangkhut has brought about severe damage to the public transport network and facilities (including railways, roads and piers). Since the small hours of September 17 when Typhoon Signal No. 8 was in force, the Transport Department (TD), the Highways Department (HyD), the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Fire Services Department, the Architectural Services Department, the Marine Department, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), the WSD, the FEHD and public transport operators have been working at full strength, including repairing road surface and traffic lights, clearing blocked roads, etc, so as to restore public transport services. The Transport and Housing Bureau has been co-ordinating the departments under its ambit and maintaining close liaison with the Security Bureau to carry out disaster recovery work.

On sea transport, from September 17, all inner and outer harbour ferry routes have resumed normal service except for the North Point-Hung Hom route, as the Hung Hom Pier is still under repair. It is expected that the North Point-Hung Hom route will resume service tomorrow (September 22).

As regards land transport (including franchised bus, public light bus,

Light Rail, trams), for the past few days, the HyD deployed 730 workers on average to conduct clearance works in all districts. Priority was given to works relating to the prompt resumption of public transport services. For example, major roads, roads leading to bus depots, roads connecting railway stations and roads in the areas with no alternative routes were given top priority. The HyD has liaised with the TD at all times to ensure that the clearance work was conducted in an orderly manner.

Meanwhile, the TD co-ordinated with the EMSD on the morning of September 17 to start repair work for 184 damaged traffic lights. The repair work was completed on September 19.

As regards bus services, one bus route is still suspended. It is expected to resume service tomorrow.

While road traffic has generally returned to normal, some localities are still affected by fallen trees and there will still be small-scale diversions of some bus routes. Motorists, especially private car drivers and commercial vehicle drivers, are advised to pay attention to the road conditions. They should exercise tolerance and patience and drive carefully. The HyD and the TD will continue to work at full strength to clear the remaining fallen trees and other obstacles on roads.

Repair works on school premises

Before Super Typhoon Mangkhut struck Hong Kong, the Education Bureau (EDB) had been closely monitoring the situation and requested schools to take precautionary measures. In view of the fact that Super Typhoon Mangkhut brought varying degrees of impact to schools and to ensure the safety of students, the Education Bureau announced class suspension of all schools on September 17 and 18, considering that some schools needed time to clean up and do repair works on their premises and facilities and that it would take time for public transport services to return to normal. Almost all schools resumed classes on September 19 after the cleaning up and repair works. As of today, classes at four schools remained suspended but are expected to resume next week.

The EDB has all along maintained close contact with schools and the sector to understand their needs and to provide support. The bureau has provided urgent assistance to affected schools in tackling various matters, including arranging its consultants and contractors to promptly remove facilities damaged by strong wind and which might pose immediate danger, as soon as weather permitted, and have commenced emergency repair works for more than 320 aided schools over the last couple of days. In view of the special situation, the EDB said yesterday that a special grant would be provided to public sector schools and Direct Subsidy Scheme schools to help them pay the costs to be incurred by the cleaning up, repair works and the replacement of standard facilities and equipment as a result of the typhoon. Kindergartens which have joined the Kindergarten Education Scheme will also be covered. Details will be provided next week. Schools in need can apply to the EDB having regard to their own situation. The EDB will continue to maintain close

contact with schools and the sector and provide support.

Non-governmental organisations

The Social Welfare Department has contacted the 169 non-governmental organisations (NGO) that provide subvented social welfare services to better understand the impact of the typhoon on their service units. Among them, 17 service units of 12 NGOs had facilities affected by the typhoon to various degrees, leading to service suspension. Fifteen units and one unit resumed normal operation on September 18 and September 19 respectively, while the repair of the remaining unit is still in progress.

Community work

The Home Affairs Department (HAD) and various District Offices co-operated with the relevant departments to clear fallen trees, refuse and obstructive objects on roads. The District Offices arranged about 30 shuttle buses and two ferries in Sai Kung District, Southern District, North District and Yuen Long District to provide transportation services to the public and relieve traffic congestion.

The HAD and the District Offices also contacted construction companies and engaged term contractors under the District Minor Works Programme to mobilise large machinery and skilled workers to assist in clearing fallen trees. Among them 11 construction companies provided voluntary services. Moreover, taking into account the special circumstances in different districts, the respective District Offices also made appropriate arrangements. For example, Sai Kung District Office arranged an urgent meeting with a number of local organisations and the Marine Department to help solve the marine refuse problem.

Furthermore, about 1 000 members of the community and volunteers joined together in clearing refuse and fallen trees on roads, and also assisted the elderly in cleaning their homes, many of which were damaged by the typhoon. The Government thanked the construction companies who volunteered, term contractors and members of the community for their tremendous efforts and assistance in helping to restore normal operation to the community as soon as possible.

The Government spokesman thanked the public and community groups who had pitched in to help clean up the city this week, while emergency services focused on dealing with priority issues such as opening roads and clearing away dangerous trees.

"We welcome and appreciate very much the fact that people understand the huge cleanup task and have taken the initiative to lend a helping hand in their neighbourhoods. This shows the true Hong Kong spirit at work," the spokesman said.

CAD reports operational event of ATMS

In the morning today (September 21), while the technical staff of the maintenance service provider of the Civil Aviation Department (CAD)'s Air Traffic Management System (ATMS) were carrying out the planned housekeeping procedures of the Ultimate Fallback System (UFS) of the ATMS, the technical staff inadvertently rebooted the network switches of the Main System, which was operating, by removing the dedicated power source of the network switches and reconnecting it afterwards. As a result, the Main System displayed an alert message. While the occurrence was being followed up, the technical staff switched the ATMS from the Main System to the Fallback System, which shares the same design and was operating, according to the established procedures. Throughout the occurrence, the processing and display of flight data remained normal. All flight information (both essential types and supplementary types) of all flights in the Hong Kong Flight Information Region was displayed on the radar screens. The Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) continued to provide air traffic control (ATC) services as usual.

"At 5.49am this morning, the technical staff of the maintenance service provider were carrying out the planned housekeeping procedures of the UFS, the technical staff inadvertently rebooted the Main System's two network switches one after another by removing the dedicated power source of the network switches and reconnecting it afterwards. The two network switches are identical and serve as mutual backup for each other. As this procedure is not applicable to the Main System which is operating, the execution of the procedure on the Main System resulted in the display of an alert message as per system design. The technical staff on-site immediately followed up and carried out investigations. Having co-ordinated with the ATC supervisors on-site, the technical staff switched the ATMS to the Fallback System according to the established procedures at 5.57am. During this eight-minute period, the ATCOs were able to keep direct voice communication with the pilots of all flights and to provide ATC services at all times. Due to the switchover from the Main System to the Fallback System, certain non-critical system functions were temporarily suspended, such as the flight data exchange functions with the adjacent Flight Information Regions (FIRs). Nevertheless, the ATCOs continued to maintain close liaison with the adjacent FIRs through voice communication system according to the established procedures. After the original Main System was inspected by the technical staff of the maintenance service provider, it then served as a backup as per system design," a CAD spokesman said.

"According to the information we gathered, the occurrence was caused by human error and was not related to the performance of the ATMS itself. It was not necessary to activate the Ultimate Fallback System of the ATMS in the process. The occurrence did not affect arriving or departing flights, nor did it affect aviation safety. Nevertheless, the CAD is very concerned about the occurrence and has asked the maintenance service provider to submit a report

to give a full account of the occurrence and to come up with improvement measures to prevent recurrence . The CAD will also review the oversight of the housekeeping procedures of the ATMS," he added.

The ATMS has built-in multiple fallback systems to tackle different scenarios. The Main System and the Fallback System are independent but identical systems with the same design and functionality, which can immediately take up the role of each other in the event of an outage for maintaining ATC services continuity. All professional ATCOs receive rigorous training and have the skills and experience required to deal with unexpected circumstances in accordance with the established procedures, so as to continue to provide ATC services and safeguard aviation safety.

“The Golden Years of Hong Kong Cinema” special programme presented at the Thessaloniki International Film Festival in Greece (with photos)

With the support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels (HKETO, Brussels), the Thessaloniki International Film Festival in Greece is presenting a special programme of five classic Hong Kong films entitled "The Golden Years of Hong Kong Cinema". The films are screened in Thessaloniki, a port and the second largest city in Greece, from September 20 to 23 (Thessaloniki time).

Speaking at a cocktail reception on September 20 (Thessaloniki time) after the screening of the programme's opening film, "Armour of God", the Deputy Representative of HKETO, Brussels, Miss Fiona Chau, invited creative industry professionals, one of the 11 professional groups covered by the Talent List recently published by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, to consider furthering their careers in Hong Kong.

"Over the years, Hong Kong has developed into a leading arts and cultural hub in the region, with a leading edge in key areas of creative industries like film making, performing arts, computer design, comics and animation. We would like to make our creative industries more international still by actively encouraging professionals from Europe and around the world to come to live in Hong Kong and be part of this vibrant scene. Immigration facilitation is provided for qualified talents in the Talent List to come and settle in Hong Kong," Miss Chau said.

This is the fourth consecutive year that HKETO, Brussels has co-operated with the Thessaloniki International Film Festival to bring Hong Kong films to

Greek audiences. The special programme of this year comprises Jackie Chan's "Armour of God", Wellson Chin's "The Inspector Wears Skirts II", Ann Hui's "Zodiac Killer", Tsui Hark's "Once Upon a time in China III" and Tsui Siu-ming's "Bury Me High".



Updated conditions of country parks and HKUGGp facilities after Super Typhoon Mangkhut (with photos)

Due to the Super Typhoon Mangkhut last weekend, hiking trails and recreational sites and facilities in the country parks and the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGGp) under the management of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) have been extensively damaged and blocked by fallen trees, and landslides also took place in some areas. After the typhoon, AFCD has been clearing fallen trees, repairing damaged facilities and inspecting various areas in full strength with a view to reopening those facilities to the public as soon as possible.

An AFCD spokesperson said, "A large number of trees in the country parks fell, in addition to branch failure. AFCD staff in different regions of country parks have been striving to clear fallen trees and implementing remedial measures throughout this week. More than 1 000 fallen trees have been handled so far. Fallen trees are cut into wood logs as materials for building country parks facilities as far as possible. The rest would mostly be piled on site for natural decomposition during which nutrients will be released back to nature."

"At present, most forest tracks in country parks are reopened for use by the public and vehicles for official purpose, except those in Tai Lam, Shing Mun and Tai Po Kau areas. However, many hiking trails are still blocked by fallen trees. For HKUGGp, geo trails and nature trails at Ma Shi Chau, Sharp

Island, Kat O, Tung Ping Chau and Lai Chi Wo have also experienced difficult situations, such as road damage and roadblocks due to fallen trees."

"For the sake of safety, members of the public are advised to refrain from using hiking trails and other temporary closed areas in the country parks and the HKUGGP for the time being, and not to enter areas with fallen trees and affected by landslides. Moreover, since cutting trees and outdoor works require professional technique and safety training, members of the public are urged not to cut or move the fallen trees to avoid injuries. AFCD has invited volunteers from hiking groups, with precautionary measure and suitable gears, to help clean up the parks and trails," the spokesperson said.

With the concerted efforts of AFCD staff and the assistance of volunteers from hiking groups, some recreational sites in country parks will be reopened tomorrow (September 22) so that the public can enjoy the weekend and Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival. Major recreation sites in country parks to be reopened tomorrow are listed below:

| District | Reopened Major Recreation Sites |
|-------------------------|---|
| Hong Kong Island | Aberdeen Reservoir Barbecue Area (Except Site No. 2 and Site No. 7) |
| | Tai Tam Barbecue Area (Except Site No. 2) |
| | Mount Parker Road Barbecue Area |
| Sai Kung | Wan Tsai South Campsite |
| | Wan Tsai West Campsite |
| | Pak Tam Chung Barbecue Site No. 2 |
| | Tsak Yue Wu Barbecue Area |
| | Tai Mong Tsai Campsite |
| | Tai Mong Tsai Barbecue Area Site No. 4, Site No. 8 and Site No. 9 |
| | Sai Sha Road Barbecue Site No. 5 |
| North New Territories | Tai Mei Tuk Barbecue Site |
| | Hok Tau Barbecue Site No. 6 |
| Central New Territories | Hung Muk Kuk Barbecue Area |
| | Shing Mun Barbecue Area (Except Site No. 6) |
| | Shek Lei Pui Reservoir Barbecue Area |
| | Kowloon Reservoir Barbecue Area |
| West New Territories | Sham Tseng Barbecue Area |
| | Tuen Mun Barbecue Area – Site Nos. 1, 2 and 3 |
| | Tai Tong Barbecue Area Site Nos. 1 and 3 |

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| | Twisk Barbecue Area Site No. 2 |
| | Rotary Club Campsite |
| | Twisk Campsite |
| Lantau Island | Shek Pik Campsite |

AFCD will continue to announce the latest updates on its department website (afcd.gov.hk) and "Enjoy Hiking" website (hiking.gov.hk). Country park and HKUGGP visitors should be vigilant of their own safety and pay attention to notices on site.



[CE meets Chairman of Foreign Affairs](#)

Committee of UK Parliament (with photo)

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, met with the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC) of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom Parliament, Mr Tom Tugendhat, and members of the FAC at the Chief Executive's Office this morning (September 21). The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, and the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick Nip, also attended the meeting.

Mrs Lam briefed Mr Tugendhat on Hong Kong's latest developments. She noted that since its return to the Motherland, Hong Kong has been exercising a high degree of autonomy and "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" in strict accordance with the Basic Law, thus demonstrating the full and successful implementation of the "One country, Two systems" principle. Adding that the rule of law and judicial independence are as robust as ever, Mrs Lam highlighted the fact that a number of overseas non-permanent judges of the Court of Final Appeal are from the United Kingdom, and these illustrious judges have made significant contributions to the city's rule of law and its judicial independence. The city's comprehensive legal aid system is also important for safeguarding justice, and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government attaches great importance to freedom of speech, which is also protected by the Basic Law, she added.

In addition, noting that Hong Kong is actively participating in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Mrs Lam said the HKSAR will strive to leverage its unique advantages and jointly develop the Bay Area into an international innovation and technology hub. Mrs Lam stressed that "One Country, Two Systems" is unique to the Bay Area, and will serve as an important foundation for the Bay Area to go international down the road. Hong Kong's integration into the development of the Bay Area will not undermine the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" but will enrich it, as well as being conducive to maintaining Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability.

