HAD's Emergency Co-ordination Centre stood down

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

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

As the Red Rainstorm Warning Signal has been cancelled, the Home Affairs Department's Emergency Co-ordination Centre and the emergency hotline 2835 1473 have ceased to operate.

HAD's Emergency Co-ordination Centre in operation

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

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

As the Red Rainstorm Warning Signal has been issued, the Home Affairs Department's Emergency Co-ordination Centre is now in operation.

The Home Affairs Department will open temporary shelters for people in need of temporary accommodation.

For details, please contact the centre on 2835 1473.

Public urged to report flooding

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

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

Members of the public are advised to report any street flooding that comes to their notice to the Drainage Services Department by calling the 24-hour drainage hotline on 2300 1110.

Employers, contractors and employees should be aware of electrical safety at work during rainstorm

As the rainstorm warning has been issued by the Hong Kong Observatory, the Labour Department (LD) reminds employers and contractors that they should adopt necessary work arrangements and take suitable safety measures to protect the safety of their employees when they are carrying out electrical work or handling electrical plant.

A spokesman for the LD said today (August 26) that employers and contractors should avoid assigning employees to carry out electrical work (like electric arc welding work) or handle electrical plant at places affected by rainstorms, and should refer to the "Code of Practice in times of Typhoons and Rainstorms" and the "Guide on Safety at Work in times of Inclement Weather" issued by the LD.

Even if electrical work is carried out or electrical plant is handled at places not affected by the rainstorm, suitable safety measures must still be adopted to prevent electric shock as the air would be more humid. Such measures include:

- (i) Ensure that all live parts of an electrical installation are isolated from the power supply source and rendered dead, and the isolation from the power supply source must be maintained as long as electrical work is being carried out:
- (ii) Before carrying out any electrical work or handling any electrical plant, cut off and lock out the power supply source, then test the circuit concerned to confirm it is dead and display suitable warning notices, and issue a work permit thereafter;
- (iii) Ensure that protective devices (such as suitable and adequate fuses and circuit breakers) for the electrical installations or electrical plant have been installed and maintained in good working order, and portable electric tools must be double-insulated or properly earthed;
- (iv) Provide suitable personal protective equipment such as insulating gloves and insulating mats for employees; and
- (v) If live electrical work is unavoidable, a comprehensive risk assessment should be conducted by a competent person and the appropriate safety precautions should be taken to remove or properly control the electrical hazards involved before such work can proceed.

In addition, employees should co-operate with the employer or contractor

to follow the safety instructions and use the safety equipment provided.

The LD has published guidebooks and leaflets on electrical work safety. These safety publications are available free from divisional offices of the department or can be downloaded from its website (www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/content2.8.htm).

Should there be any questions about occupational safety and health matters, please contact the Occupational Safety Officer of the LD at 2559 2297.

SHA congratulates Hong Kong squash athletes on winning gold and silver medals in Men's Single in Asian Games

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Lau Kong-wah, today (August 26) extended his congratulations to Hong Kong squash athletes Au Chun-ming and Lee Ho-yin on winning a gold medal and a silver medal respectively in Men's Single at the 18th Asian Games, being held in Jakarta and Palembang in Indonesia.

Mr Lau said, "Both squash athletes Au Chun-ming and Lee Ho-yin demonstrated their strength in turning defeat into victory at the semifinals. It is a glorious story for Hong Kong that both entered the final match, scoring the best ever results for the Hong Kong squash team in the Asian Games. Their achievements signify the excellency of Hong Kong athletes and they are the pride of our people."

The Hong Kong delegation has so far won 24 medals in the Asian Games, namely three gold, seven silver and 14 bronze. The list of other medals won from August 24 to today is as follows:

Today

Bronze medal

Karate: Women's Kumite -61kg

Choi Wan-yu

August 25

Silver medal

Bowling: Men's Team of Six Lau Kwun-ho, Mak Cheuk-yin, Tse Chun-hin, Tseng Tak-hin, Wong Kwan-yuen and Wu Siu-hong

Bronze medal

Karate: Women's Kata

Grace Lau

August 24

Silver medal

Fencing: Men's Team Foil

Cheung Ka-long, Ryan Choi, Nicholas Edward Choi and Yeung Chi-ka