

Assess the risk of heat stroke to employees

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following special announcement immediately, and repeat it at frequent intervals when the Very Hot Weather Warning is in force:

The Labour Department reminds employers that as the Very Hot Weather Warning is in force, they should assess the risk of heat stroke to their employees and adopt effective preventive measures such as providing cool drinking water, setting up temporary sunshade and providing mechanical aids to reduce physical exertion of employees. Employees should drink water regularly and be mindful of their physical condition. If early heat stroke symptoms such as headache and thirst appear, they should inform their supervisors and seek medical help immediately.

Very Hot Weather Warning issued

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

The Hong Kong Observatory has issued the Very Hot Weather Warning.

To prevent heat stroke, avoid prolonged activities outdoors.

If engaged in outdoor work or activities, wear a wide-brimmed hat and light-coloured, loose-fitting clothes. Stay in shaded areas as much as possible.

Drink plenty of water, and avoid beverages containing caffeine or alcohol.

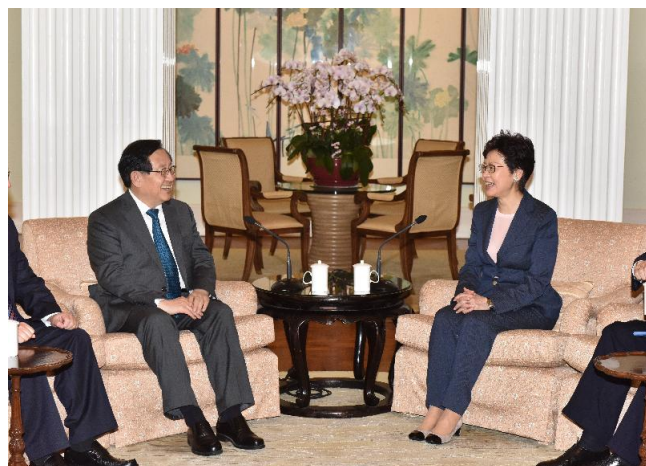
If you feel sick, consult a doctor right away.

CE meets CPPCC Vice-Chairman and President of China Association for Science and Technology (with photo)

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, met Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and President of the China Association for Science and Technology Professor Wan Gang at Government House this afternoon (May 23).

Mrs Lam welcomed Professor Wan's visit to Hong Kong and said she was pleased to meet him for the third time since taking office. She thanked Professor Wan for his staunch support for Hong Kong's development of innovation and technology (I&T) during his tenure as the Minister of Science and Technology and his continued concern for Hong Kong in his new capacity. She said she has been inspired by Professor Wan each time they have met, strengthening her resolve to help Hong Kong to develop in I&T at full steam to catch up with others.

She said that the current-term Government is determined to be proactive and has put forward various policy initiatives in the past few months to advance I&T development. These have included the launch of a listing regime for I&T companies from emerging and innovative sectors to list in Hong Kong to raise capital, the amendment of the Inland Revenue Ordinance to provide enhanced tax deduction to encourage enterprises to spend more in research and development, the announcement of the Technology Talent Admission Scheme to admit overseas and Mainland talent and nurture local talent for I&T enterprises, and the preparation for the establishment of two research clusters on healthcare technologies and artificial intelligence and robotics technologies to attract top global and local scientific research talent. She said that such initiatives are well received by local, overseas and Mainland parties, which demonstrates Hong Kong's continued advantages. She expressed the hope that Professor Wan would continue to show his concern and support for Hong Kong so that Hong Kong's I&T ecosystem would develop in a diversified manner.



Appeal for information on missing man in Kwun Tong (with photo)

Police today (May 23) appealed to the public for information on a man who went missing in Kwun Tong.

Zhuang Ruguo, aged 45, went missing after he was last seen on Cha Kwo Ling Road on May 21 morning. His family made a report to Police on the same day.

He is about 1.77 metres tall, 80 kilograms in weight and of fat build. He has a round face with yellow complexion and short straight black hair. He was last seen wearing an orange short-sleeved T-shirt, blue jeans and blue sports shoes.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing man or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of Kowloon East on 3661 0316 or 9886 0060 or email to rmpu-ke-2@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.



TD's response to media enquiries on taxi trade's views about Government's proposal to strengthen penalty level for taxi driver-related offences

In response to media enquiries on the taxi trade's views about the Government's proposal to strengthen the penalty level for malpractices by taxi drivers, a spokesman for the Transport Department (TD) today (May 23) gave the following reply:

To enhance the service quality of the approximately 18 000 existing taxis, the Government in the Report of Public Transport Strategy Study

released in June 2017 proposed various measures to enhance the operating environment by, inter alia, relaxing permanently the no-stopping restrictions for taxis from peak hours and "7am to 7 or 8pm" on roads with a speed limit of less than 70 kilometres per hour, extending the validity period of driver identity plates to 10 years, and amending the requirement for applicants for a driving licence for taxis to hold a valid driving licence for private cars or light goods vehicles for at least three years to at least one year.

In response to the request from the community and the taxi trade's views, the Government has reviewed the current penalty for various taxi driver malpractices with a view to enhancing the quality of taxi service. The approach of the preliminary proposals is as follows:

(a) For offences of a more serious nature (including overcharging, refusal to hire, not using the most direct practicable route, soliciting, and defacing, damaging or altering of taximeters), a two-tier penalty system is recommended. The maximum fine and imprisonment level for offenders in the case of first conviction would be maintained at the present level, while repeat offenders would be subject to a higher maximum fine and imprisonment to deter repeat offenders;

(b) To enhance the overall deterrent effect (especially on taxi drivers who have repeatedly committed various malpractices), the Government recommends introducing a Taxi Driver-Offence Point System by making reference to the existing Driving-offence Points System. If a taxi driver is convicted of taxi-related offences by the Court, offence points would be recorded alongside the penalties imposed in accordance with the existing legislation. Upon accumulation of a certain number of points, the driver's taxi driving licence would be disqualified for a certain period of time.

In formulating the detailed proposals, the Government will carefully review the regulations of the current penalty of various taxi driver malpractices, and strike a balance to ensure that there will be sufficient deterrent effect while keeping the penalty level at a reasonable level proportionate to the seriousness of the related offence.

The Government is now consulting the Taxi Trade Conference under the Transport Department on the aforementioned preliminary proposals, and notes that some trade representatives have different opinions. The Government will continue to maintain communication with the taxi trade and other stakeholders, and adopt an open attitude in listening to their views, in order to formulate appropriate and feasible measures to improve taxi service quality.