

Public report helps EPD make successful prosecution against driver for illegal waste disposal

A goods vehicle driver was reported by a member of the public for illegally disposing of waste on Dai Wah Street, Tai Po. The goods vehicle driver concerned was convicted and fined \$3,500 at Fanling Magistrates' Courts today (September 17) for contravening the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO).

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) received a complaint from a member of the public at the end of March about waste being illegally disposed of on the pavement of Dai Wah Street, Tai Po. The member of the public also provided the EPD with photos taken during the incident to assist in the department's investigation. With the licence plate mark captured in the photos and information provided, the EPD was able to trace the goods vehicle driver involved. The waste disposed of, which was mainly a number of waste wooden boards, not only created obstructions in passages, but also adversely affected environmental hygiene. After collecting evidence, the EPD prosecuted the goods vehicle driver in accordance with the WDO.

An EPD spokesman reminded all practitioners of the renovation, construction and transportation sectors that they must properly deliver commercial as well as industrial waste and construction waste to the government waste management facilities in accordance with the law. It is unlawful to dispose of waste in public places and on the roadside. Under the WDO, offenders may be liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and six months' imprisonment on first conviction. A maximum fine of \$500,000 and six months' imprisonment may be imposed on a subsequent conviction.

The EPD spokesman urged members of the public, including property management and security personnel, to make reports to the department if they witness any illegal disposal of waste with a view to working together to combat illegal dumping activities. They can record videos or take photos and call the EPD hotline at 2838 3111.