

Hong Kong Customs smashes high-value seafood smuggling syndicate for first time (with photos)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (June 26) conducted an anti-smuggling operation and smashed an organised high-value seafood smuggling syndicate for the first time. A total of about 5.2 tonnes of suspected smuggled chilled fish with an estimated market value of about \$1 million were seized in Sha Tau Kok.

Customs earlier conducted an in-depth investigation on the smuggling syndicate and took enforcement action yesterday. Customs officers found three men moving a batch of chilled fish from a lorry onto a speedboat at the seashore of Sha Tau Kok. Customs officers then took action and seized a batch of suspected smuggled chilled fish.

Customs officers later intercepted three lorries suspected to be related to the case in the vicinity. A further batch of suspected smuggled chilled fish was seized inside the cargo compartments of two of the lorries.

After follow-up investigation, Customs officers searched five companies suspected to be in connection with the case in Sha Tau Kok, Mong Kok and Kowloon Bay, and seized a batch of relevant documents for investigation.

In the operation, Customs arrested eight men aged from 36 to 54. Six lorries and eight speedboats were also detained for further investigation.

Investigation is ongoing and the arrested men have been released on bail pending further investigation.

Smuggling is a serious offence. Under the Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting unmanifested cargo is liable to a maximum fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years.

Hong Kong Customs will continue to take stringent enforcement action to combat smuggling activities.

Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



Operational event at Yangjiang Nuclear Power Station

An operational event at Yangjiang Nuclear Power Station (YNPS) was reported today (June 27) on the website of Yangjiang Nuclear Power Co Ltd (YNPC), a spokesperson for the Security Bureau said today.

On June 26, when performing the isolated maintenance operation of the auxiliary feed water pump drain tank of YNPS Unit 1, station staff found that an abnormality had occurred at the auxiliary feed water pump. They took timely action to rectify the problem and the pump soon resumed normal operation.

The event was classified as a "Below Scale Licensing Operational Event" (i.e. "Level 0" event) on the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale according to the International Atomic Energy Agency, and has no effect on the safe operation of the nuclear power station, the health of the workers, the nearby public or the environment. All nuclear generating units currently in operation at YNPS remain in safe and stable operation.

YNPC has disclosed the details about this event on its website. They can be viewed at the "operational events" section under the "nuclear and

radiation safety information" webpage of the YNPC website (www.yjnp.com.cn).

HAD to open temporary night heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department will open 19 temporary night heat shelters tonight (June 27) for people in need of the service.

The shelters will be open from 10.30pm until 8am tomorrow.

For further information, please call the department's hotline before midnight on 2835 1473.

The 19 night heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Districts:

Central and Western –
Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex
2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern –
Causeway Bay Community Centre
3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern –
Lei Tung Community Hall
Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau

Wan Chai –
Wan Chai Activities Centre
LG/F, Wan Chai Market, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Kowloon Districts:

Kowloon City –
Hung Hom Community Hall
1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices
42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong –

Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre
71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po –
Shek Kip Mei Community Hall
G/F, Block 42, Shek Kip Mei Estate
Sham Shui Po

Wong Tai Sin –
Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre
45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong –
Henry G. Leong Yaumatei Community Centre
60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories Districts:

Islands –
Tung Chung Community Hall
G/F, Tung Chung Municipal Services Building,
39 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing –
Kwai Shing Community Hall
Podium, Block 6, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung

North –
Cheung Wah Community Hall
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

Sai Kung –
Hang Hau Community Hall
G/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex,
38 Pui Shing Road, Hang Hau, Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin –
Lung Hang Estate Community Centre
Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

Tai Po –
Tai Po Community Centre
2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan –
Lei Muk Shue Community Hall
G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun –
Butterfly Bay Community Centre

Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

Yuen Long –
Long Ping Community Hall
Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long

Yuen Long –
Tin Yiu Community Centre
Tin Yiu Estate, Tin Shui Wai

The temporary night heat shelters will resume their functions as either community centres or community halls in the daytime for hire by the local community and cannot continue to be open as heat shelters. People may choose to take refuge from the heat during the daytime in the common areas in any of the 20 designated community centres or community halls. Their opening hours are from 9am to 10pm. For addresses of the community centres or community halls, please browse the following webpage:

www.had.gov.hk/file_manager/en/documents/public_services/emergency_services/List_CH_CC_Day_E.pdf.

Food premises in Eastern District ordered to suspend business for seven days

A spokesman for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (June 27) said that a food premises in Eastern District, which was found to be in breach of the Food Business Regulation (FBR) during the department's special operation targeting the hygienic condition of food premises, was prosecuted and subsequently convicted by the court. With the demerit points accumulated under the Demerit Points System (DPS), the licence of the premises will be suspended for seven days.

The spokesman said that since improper handling of food waste by food premises can give rise to rodent problems, the FEHD ran a five-week special operation from early December last year to January this year to target irregularities of food premises such as food preparation, scullery hygiene, improper storage of articles and illegal dumping of refuse at rear lanes (including dumping of bagged refuse in small hours), with a view to enhancing awareness of rodent prevention and control among the operators of food premises, and taking stringent enforcement action.

A conviction for the above-mentioned breaches was recorded against the food premises concerned earlier this year. As a cumulative total of 15 demerit points was registered against the licensee under the DPS, the

contraventions resulted in seven days' business suspension.

The spokesman reminded licensees of food premises to comply with the FBR, and to keep their premises and the nearby environment clean and hygienic in order to prevent rodent infestation, or they may be subject to prosecution resulting in licence suspension or cancellation.

To enhance the effectiveness of related operations, the FEHD undertook another round of targeted operations from May 20 to June 23, and on June 24 launched a new round special enforcement operation lasting nine weeks to sustain its efforts in curbing such illegal activities and improving environmental hygiene to help combat the rodent problem.

For the five-week operation carried out between May and June, the FEHD issued 2 207 advisory letters, 423 verbal warnings, four warning letters, 142 fixed penalty notices and took out 119 prosecutions. As regards the food premises with demerit points registered for relevant offences, the FEHD will continue to follow up with the suspension or cancellation of licences according to the established mechanism.

Community service order for man convicted of assaulting FEHD officer and obstructing public officer in execution of duty

A man was sentenced to 120 hours' community service by the Eastern Magistrates' Court today (June 27) each for assaulting a Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) officer and for obstructing a public officer in execution of his duty. The sentences are to run concurrently.

In addition, the man was also fined \$1,500 for depositing litter in a public place.

The court heard that the incident took place on January 10 this year when a man refused to co-operate and assaulted an FEHD officer when the officer tried to issue a fixed penalty notice to him for depositing litter in a public place at Jaffe Road, Wan Chai.

"To use force against law enforcement officers is inappropriate and also carries legal consequences. Members of the public should co-operate with public officers in execution of their duties," an FEHD spokesman said.