HAD opens temporary heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department is opening 19 community halls/community centres as temporary heat shelters today (July 20).

The temporary heat shelters will remain open for people to take refuge from the heat when the Very Hot Weather Warning is in force. From 10.30pm to 8am the next day, the temporary heat shelters will also provide bedding and a sleeping place for people in need. The shelters are manned by duty attendants.

For further information, please call the department's hotline before midnight on 2572 8427.

The heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Island:

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

In addition to the above heat shelters, a number of community halls/community centres can also be used for taking refuge from the heat during their operating hours. For their address details, please browse the following document:

www.had.gov.hk/file_manager/en/documents/public_services/emergency_services/L
ist CH CC Day E.pdf.

DH conducts enforcement operation against waterpipe smoking in no smoking areas (with photo)

The Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office (TACO) of the Department of Health (DH) conducted an enforcement operation against illegal waterpipe smoking activities in no smoking areas in Tsim Sha Tsui disrtict yesterday night (July 19).

During the operation, officers from TACO (including plainclothes officers) issued a total of six fixed penalty notices (FPNs) to persons illegally smoking waterpipes at one bar. TACO's investigation is ongoing and prosecution may also be taken against operators of the bar who are suspected of contravening the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance (Cap. 371) (the Ordinance) and the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Cap. 221) for aiding and abetting smoking offences.

Under the Ordinance, conducting a smoking act in a statutory no smoking area (such as indoor areas of bars or restaurants) is prohibited. Any person doing a smoking act in statutory no smoking areas are liable to a fixed penalty of \$1,500. Moreover, where smoking products (including waterpipes) are sold, in bars or otherwise, the restrictions on the promotion and sale of smoking products stipulated in the Ordinance apply. Offenders are liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000. Venue managers of statutory no smoking areas are empowered by the Ordinance to request the smoking offender to cease the act; if the offender is not co-operative, he/she may contact the Police for assistance.

Also, under the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, any person who aids, abets, counsels or procures the commission by another person of any offence shall be guilty of the like offence. A spokesman for the DH appeals to operators and venue mangers of bars/restaurants not to assist any person in breaching the statutory smoking prohibitions, or provide a waterpipe

apparatus and tobacco to customers for use.

The DH spokesman stressed that TACO will follow up and investigate every complaint about illegal smoking, and will conduct inspections and take enforcement actions in the venue concerned. TACO will also conduct joint inspections and enforcement action (including plainclothes operations) with other law enforcement agencies from time to time with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement. The DH will continue to closely monitor and take stringent enforcement actions to tackle illegal waterpipe smoking. In the past 12 months, TACO conducted 68 operations against illegal waterpipe smoking activities in no smoking areas. A total of 130 FPNs were issued against smoking offenders, while 74 summonses were issued to staff members and operators of the bars/restaurants for other related offences.

The spokesman said that waterpipe is a smoking product and its combustion of fuel (e.g. charcoal) releases high concentrations of carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless and tasteless gas which is a by-product from incomplete combustion of any fuel which contains carbon, such as charcoals. Exposure to a low concentration of carbon monoxide can lead to a range of symptoms such as dizziness, headache, tiredness and nausea; whereas exposure to a high concentration of carbon monoxide can lead to impaired vision, disturbed co-ordination, unconsciousness, brain damage or even death. People should seek medical attention immediately if suspected of developing symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Due to deeper inhalation and longer smoking session, waterpipe users usually inhale more toxins than they would when smoking cigarettes. A typical one-hour waterpipe smoking session exposes the user to 100 to 200 times the volume of smoke inhaled from a single conventional cigarette. Moreover, sharing a waterpipe apparatus increases the risk of infectious disease transmission such as tuberculosis. Furthermore, the areas in bars/restaurants where waterpipes are handled or kept have been found to be unhygienic during previous enforcement operations. The spokesman cautions against waterpipe smoking or the use of other smoking products. Smokers should quit smoking as early as possible for their own health and that of others. For more information on the hazards of waterpipe smoking, please visit www.livetobaccofree.hk/pdfs/waterpipe leaflet new.pdf.



<u>Labour Department investigates fatal</u> work accident in Tsuen Wan

The Labour Department (LD) is investigating a fatal work accident that happened in Tsuen Wan this morning (July 20) in which a man died.

The LD immediately deployed staff to the scene upon receiving a report of the accident, and is now conducting an investigation to look into its cause.

<u>Transcript of remarks by SDEV at media</u> <u>session</u>

â€<Following is the transcript of remarks by the Secretary for Development, Ms Bernadette Linn, at a media session after attending a radio programme today (July 20):

Reporter: Now that the threshold for compulsory land sale has been lowered, besides setting up designated offices, what other measures or support would be in place to help affected flat owners? Specifically, would the government consider building new buildings within the same district to accommodate them? Secondly, over the San Tin Technopole development, you mentioned that the

government is considering allowing developers who win bid for a land to take on the responsibility of forming land, could you explain the rationale behind this decision and whether there is a concrete plan for how much of the area would be developed with this approach.

Secretary for Development: On your first question regarding the compulsory sales, first of all, I must make it very clear that the compulsory sale regime is to facilitate the redevelopment of our aged buildings in the private market. So it is activities in the private market, activities between the private owners of individual flats and those developers who are interested in acquiring their flats. So there is no question of government going into this market and having flats built to rehouse those owners affected. It is a private market activity. Of course, the government has also been rolling out land and the Urban Renewal Authority has also been taking forward redevelopment projects in the urban area. That means there will be new flats in the urban area anyway to help with the decanting with the movement of the owners out of their aged buildings. But again, this is a private activity to happen or happening in the private market, not about government intervention of building private housing for rehousing.

As to what type of support we will give to the minority owners affected by compulsory sale applications, we will be shortly establishing a dedicated support centre. This centre will report to the Development Bureau, so it is a government-led setup. And this centre will provide support for the minority owners in terms of legal advice and independent valuation advice which they will need to tackle the compulsory sale applications. We will also engage the Urban Renewal Authority to invite them to help promote the joint sales among owners who would like to join together and have their flats redeveloped without having to wait for developers to approach them. So we will use a multi-pronged approach to assist minority owners.

As to your second question about the use of this new concept in developing the Northern Metropolis, it may not necessarily be applied to the San Tin Technopole. But this new concept is about the government designated a rather large region in the Northern Metropolis and having that region tendered out to a consortium and require the consortium to deliver what the government required of that land, including private residential, commercial gross floor area and also infrastructure and community facilities. This approach will help reduce the cash flow burden on the government because we do not have to use the public coffers, use public funding to do the site formation and other infrastructure on our own. Whoever is the consortium successfully tendering the land for that region, they will make a bid and in that bid they will take account of the capital cost that they have to incur and give the government a reasonable revenue, so we think it will help in terms of speed and also in terms of government cash flow.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

<u>Appeal for information on missing maning Wong Tai Sin (with photo)</u>

Police today (July 20) appealed to the public for information on a man who went missing in Wong Tai Sin.

Qiu Huijian, aged 50, went missing after he was last seen in Lower Wong Tai Sin Estate on July 17 night. His family made a report to Police yesterday (July 19).

He is about 1.8 metres tall and of medium build. He has a squared face with yellow complexion and is bald.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing man or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Persons Unit of Kowloon East on 3661 0321 or email to rmpu-ke-2@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.

