

## Marine Department announcement

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

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

As Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No.3 has been issued, the Marine Department reminds vessel owners, masters and persons-in-charge of vessels that they should take precautionary measures immediately and properly secure their vessels at safe locations.

In case of an accident, a report should be made immediately to the Vessel Traffic Centre at 2233 7801.

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## Typhoon Saola roundup

As Typhoon Saola is moving away from Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Observatory issued the Strong Wind Signal No. 3 at 4.20pm today (September 2). It replaced the No. 8 Southeast Gale or Storm Signal at 3.40am today.

The Home Affairs Department has opened 40 temporary shelters in various districts and 520 people have sought refuge.

As at 4pm today, the Fire Services Department, the Government's 1823 Call Centre and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department received 1 185 reports, 357 reports and three reports of fallen trees respectively. The Drainage Services Department has confirmed 21 flooding cases. In addition, as at 4pm, two reports of landslide have been received.

According to the Hospital Authority, as at 4pm today, 86 people (48 men and 38 women) have been injured during the typhoon period and received medical treatment at the Accident and Emergency Department of public hospitals.

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## Arrangement for Service Resumption at the Registration of Persons Offices

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations

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

The Immigration Department announces that as the Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 has been cancelled, services at the Registration of Persons Offices (ROP Offices) – Hong Kong Office, Kowloon Office, Kwun Tong Office and Tuen Mun Office will resume within two hours. Those with appointment booking from 4.30pm onwards today (September 2) may approach these offices for processing applications for replacement of new smart identity cards made after the end of the Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise, and applications by persons already in possession of Hong Kong identity cards reaching 11 or 18 years of age.

Services at the Immigration Headquarters and all Branch Offices, the ROP Offices – Yuen Long Office and Fo Tan Office and Births, Deaths and Marriage Registries are suspended today.

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## **SENT Landfill to be reopened**

Attention TV/Radio Announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

The Environmental Protection Department announced today (September 2) that the South East New Territories Landfill at Tseung Kwan O will be reopened at 6.30pm.

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## **Make reasonable work arrangements for employees after typhoons or rainstorms**

The Labour Department (LD) today (September 2) reminded employers to make practical and reasonable work arrangements for staff after tropical cyclone and rainstorm warnings. Employers should also make flexible arrangements for staff to resume work or work from home (if applicable) after a tropical cyclone or rainstorm warning is cancelled, with due consideration to road and traffic conditions and other factors. This will help maintain good labour-management relations and ensure the safety of employees and the smooth operation of establishments.

"For staff who have practical difficulties in resuming work on time upon

the cancellation of a tropical cyclone or rainstorm warning, employers should give due consideration to the situations of individual employees and handle each case flexibly. For example, employers may permit employees who have difficulties in returning to workplaces to work from home or allow more time for them to report for duty and resume work," an LD spokesman said.

"As typhoons and rainstorms are natural occurrences that cannot be avoided, for employees who are not able to report for duty or resume work on time due to adverse weather conditions, employers should not withhold their wages, good attendance bonuses or allowances without reasons. Employers should enquire into the reasons and give due consideration to the exceptional circumstances in each case and should not penalise or dismiss the employee concerned rashly," he said.

The spokesman also reminded employers to observe the statutory liabilities and requirements under the Employment Ordinance, the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance, the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance, the Employees' Compensation Ordinance and the Minimum Wage Ordinance.

Employers should not deduct annual leave, statutory holidays or rest days to which employees are entitled under the Employment Ordinance to compensate for the loss of working hours resulting from employees' failure to report for duty when Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 or the Black Rainstorm Warning Signal is in force or when the post-super typhoon "extreme conditions" exist. An employer who without reasonable excuse fails to comply with the relevant provisions under the Employment Ordinance is liable to prosecution.

Employers should also note that they have an obligation to provide and maintain a safe working environment for their employees under the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance.

The LD has published the "Code of Practice in Times of Typhoons and Rainstorms", which provides a reference for employers and employees on the work and resumption of work arrangements in the event of the Government making the post-super typhoon "extreme conditions" announcement, as well as the major principles, the framework, the reference guidelines and information on relevant legislation for reference in drawing up the work arrangements under adverse weather conditions. The booklet can be obtained from branch offices of the Labour Relations Division or downloaded from the department's webpage ([www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/wcp/Rainstorm.pdf](http://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/wcp/Rainstorm.pdf)).