

Ombudsman invites public views on Buildings Department's implementation of Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme

The following is issued on behalf of the Office of The Ombudsman:

The Ombudsman, Ms Connie Lau, today (August 2) invited members of the public to provide information and/or views on the implementation of the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme by the Buildings Department (BD).

The Scheme commenced in June 2012. Owners of private buildings aged 10 years or above (except domestic buildings not exceeding three storeys), having received the BD's statutory notices of the Scheme, are required to arrange inspection and (where found necessary) repairs for the windows of their buildings. As at May 2018, the Office of The Ombudsman had received 50 complaints against the BD for failing to duly implement the Scheme since its commencement.

Furthermore, the Office has noticed that accidents involving falling windows have occasionally happened in recent years. The windows of some old buildings are dilapidated, but the BD takes a long time to select the buildings as targets of the Scheme. There has also been a case in which a window fell from a building even though it had already been inspected under the Scheme. Such a situation invites concern. The Ombudsman has, therefore, initiated a direct investigation to examine whether there are any inadequacies and areas for improvement in the BD's implementation of the Scheme. This direct investigation covers:

- (1) The BD's selection of target buildings of the Scheme;
- (2) The BD's procedures for issuing statutory notices of the Scheme;
- (3) The BD's mechanism for monitoring compliance with the statutory notices; and
- (4) The BD's enforcement actions against breaches of requirements of the Scheme.

To make the investigation more comprehensive, The Ombudsman is now inviting the public to send in information and/or views in writing to the Office of The Ombudsman by September 2, 2018:

Address: 30/F, China Merchants Tower, Shun Tak Centre, 168-200 Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong

Fax: 2882 8149

Email: complaints@ombudsman.hk

Suspected case tests negative for MERS-CoV

The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health today (August 2) reported that the suspected case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) pending results yesterday (August 1), upon preliminary testing, tested negative for MERS Coronavirus.

Red flag hoisted at Lo So Shing Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (August 2) that due to big waves, red flag has been hoisted at Lo So Shing Beach in Islands District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

Flag-raising ceremony cancelled

Owing to the thunderstorm warning, the flag-raising ceremony to be conducted at Golden Bauhinia Square, Wan Chai at 8am today (August 2) will be cancelled.

CHP reminds public on precautions against heat stroke during very hot

weather

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (August 2) reminded members of the public, particularly those undertaking outdoor activities, to take heed of necessary measures against heat stroke and sunburn in very hot weather.

"The public should carry and drink plenty of water to prevent dehydration while engaging in outdoor activities," a spokesman for the CHP said.

"Those engaged in strenuous outdoor activities should avoid beverages containing caffeine, such as coffee and tea, as well as alcohol, as they speed up water loss through the urinary system," the spokesman explained.

"The obese, the sick, including those with heart disease or high blood pressure, the old and the young are more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses. They should pay special attention," the spokesman added.

The public should adopt the following precautions:

- Wear loose and light-coloured clothing to reduce heat absorption and facilitate sweat evaporation and heat dissipation;
- Avoid vigorous exercise and prolonged activities like hiking or trekking as heat, sweating and exhaustion place additional demands on the physique;
- Perform outdoor activities in the morning or late afternoon;
- For indoor activities, open all windows, use a fan or use air-conditioning to maintain good ventilation; and
- Reschedule work to cooler times of the day.

If working in a hot environment is inevitable, introduce shade in the workplace where practicable, and start work slowly and pick up the pace gradually. Get into a cool area for rest at regular intervals to allow the body to recuperate.

The public should also note the latest and the forecast Ultraviolet (UV) Index released by the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO). When the UV Index remains high (6 or above):

- Minimise direct exposure of the skin and the eyes to sunlight;
- Wear loose long-sleeved clothing made of close-woven fabrics;
- Wear a wide brim hat or use an umbrella;
- Seek a shaded area or put on UV-blocking sunglasses;
- Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen lotion with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or above. Apply liberally and reapply after swimming or sweating; and
- While using DEET-containing insect repellents for personal protection

against mosquito-borne diseases, apply sunscreen first, then insect repellent.

If symptoms develop, such as dizziness, headache, nausea, shortness of breath or confusion, rest and seek help immediately, and seek medical advice as soon as possible.

The public may get more information from the DH's Health Education Hotline (2833 0111), [heat stroke](#) page and [UV radiation](#) page; the HKO's Dial-a-Weather (1878 200), latest [weather and forecast](#), [UV Index](#) and weather information for [hiking and mountaineering](#); and [press releases](#) of the Labour Department on precautions against heat stroke for outdoor workers and their employers when the Very Hot Weather Warning is in force.