

Marine Department announcement (2)

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.9 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.

HKSAR Government prepares for approach of tropical cyclone

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) said today (September 1) that Saola continues to edge closer to Hong Kong as a Super Typhoon. Winds over parts of the high ground reached storm force. The rainbands of Saola are affecting the territory. The weather will deteriorate with heavy squally showers and violent winds. Under the influence of storm surge, the water level in low-lying coastal areas will rise rapidly tonight. There may be serious flooding. The maximum sea level may be similar to that when Mangkhut hit Hong Kong in 2018.

The HKO forecasts that the water level in the eastern coastal waters of the territory will increase from around 9pm tonight. Among which, the water level at Tolo Harbour will reach a high water level of about 5 metres or higher above chart datum around midnight, which is about 3 metres or above higher than the normal tide level. The maximum water level may reach a historical record. The worst hit areas include Shing Mun River, Tai Po, Sha Tau Kok, Sai Kung, etc. The water levels over other coastal areas of Hong Kong including Victoria Harbour will also start to rise significantly from around 6am tomorrow (September 2). The water level in low-lying coastal areas such as Lei Yue Mun will be around 1.5 metres higher than the normal tide level. The water level at Tai O will also be nearly 2 metres above the normal tide level.

During the passage of Super Typhoon, coastal low-lying or windy areas are susceptible to flood risk. The Drainage Services Department (DSD) has implemented measures including inspecting the condition of drainage channels, installation of demountable flood barriers, deployment of pumping facilities

and provision of sandbags etc. at relevant locations to ensure the capacity of the drainage system. In addition, the "smart flood prevention system" installed at the riparian area of Shing Mun River allows members of the public to obtain real-time water level images, weather and tidal information announced by the HKO and flood warning messages through display panel/smart pole or online means, to enhance the alertness of members of the public at low-lying locations to stay safe.

The District Offices have contacted resident representatives in recent days to pay home visits to residents in the above said serious flood prone areas for early alerts on precautionary measures and provide support to people in need, including arranging residents to move to a safe place or temporary shelters. Together with other government departments (including the DSD, the Fire Services Department and the Civil Aid Service), the District Offices have also assisted residents to take precautionary measures against the tropical cyclone including clearing drains, providing sandbags and water-stop boards, and moving furniture to a safe place etc.

The Home Affairs Department (HAD) has worked with its district network in 18 districts to seek their assistance in reminding members of the public to pay attention to the latest information on the tropical cyclone from the HKO and take precautionary measures. The HAD's emergency hotline (2572 8427) is operating to handle public enquiries on the tropical cyclone. A total of 37 temporary shelters have been operated by the District Offices for people in need.

The Hong Kong Police Force has enhanced patrol in high risk spots and advised members of the public to stay away from the shorelines.

The spokesman for the Government urged again the members of the public to stay indoor and stay away from low-lying areas to safeguard personal safety when the tropical cyclone is in force. Do not chase wind or engage in sea or other dangerous activities. They should also stay tuned to the latest warning messages issued by the HKO, the relevant departments and organisations.

Flood alert system for Tai O and emergency co-ordination centre activated

The Islands District Office (IsDO) has announced that, according to the forecast of the Hong Kong Observatory, the sea level at Tai O may rise to 3.3 metres above Chart Datum or more in tomorrow (September 2) morning under the influence of the tropical cyclone, and may lead to tidal backflow and serious

flooding in the low-lying areas of Tai O.

The IsDO has activated an emergency co-ordination centre, jointly set up by the IsDO, the Fire Services Department (FSD), the Police, the Social Welfare Department, other government departments concerned and relevant non-governmental organisations, at the Tai O Rural Committee. The emergency co-ordination centre will co-ordinate any necessary evacuation, rescue and emergency relief efforts for Tai O. In addition, temporary shelters at the Tai O Rural Committee, the Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council Tung Chung Integrated Services Centre and the Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association, Tai O Community Work Office, as well as the Lung Tin Transit Centre, have been opened for residents in need.

The Police, the FSD and Civil Aid Service personnel will help affected residents, if needed, to move to the temporary shelters or other safe locations.

Residents living in the low-lying areas of Tai O are advised to take shelter at a safe place before the flood arrives. The IsDO will monitor the situation closely and co-ordinate with other government departments to render full assistance to residents in need.

Classes of all schools remain suspended tomorrow

Saola continues to edge closer to Hong Kong as a Super Typhoon, the Hong Kong Observatory will consider issuing the Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal no. 9 between 6pm and 8pm tonight (September 1). Under the influence of storm surge, the water level in low-lying coastal areas will rise rapidly tonight and there may be serious flooding. Meanwhile, the water levels over other coastal areas of Hong Kong will also start to rise significantly from around 6am tomorrow (September 2). Considering the latest development and situation of the tropical cyclone, the Education Bureau announced that classes of all schools will remain suspended tomorrow in order to ensure students' safety.

HAD opens additional temporary shelter (4)

In view of the latest typhoon situation, the Home Affairs Department has

opened the following additional temporary shelter for people in need:

Region	Venue	Address
New Territories (except Islands District)	Tin Fai Road Community Hall	Tin Fai Road, Tin Shui Wai

Please refer to the annex for the full list of temporary shelters that are now open. For enquiries, please contact the emergency hotline on 2572 8427.