

## **Suspected red tide sighted at Silver Mine Bay Beach**

Attention TV and 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 (July 24) that due to the sighting of a suspected red tide, the red flag has been hoisted at Silver Mine Bay Beach in Islands District. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at the beach until further notice.

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## **Property owner fined over \$90,000 for persistently not complying with removal order**

A property owner was convicted and fined over \$90,000 at the Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts last week for persistently failing to comply with a removal order issued under the Buildings Ordinance (BO) (Cap. 123).

The order involved erection of partition walls in a unit of a composite building at Chatham Court, for subdividing the unit into several individual rooms. As the alteration works obstructed the means of escape and contravened the Building (Planning) Regulations, a removal order was served on the owner under section 24(1) of the BO.

Failing to comply with the removal order, the owner was prosecuted by the Buildings Department (BD) in 2018 and was fined about \$50,000 upon conviction by the court. As the owner persisted in not complying with the removal order, the owner was prosecuted again. The owner was convicted again and fined \$90,800 at the Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts on July 18.

A spokesman for the BD said today (July 24), "Illegal subdivision of flats may lead to serious consequences. Owners must comply with the removal orders without delay. The BD will continue to take enforcement action against owners who have failed to comply with the removal orders, including instigation of prosecution, so as to ensure building safety."

Failure to comply with a removal order without reasonable excuse is a serious offence under the BO. The maximum penalty upon conviction is one

year's imprisonment and a fine of \$200,000, and a further fine of \$20,000 for each day that the offence continues.

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## **LD reminds employers and employees to take heat stroke preventive measures in times of Heat Stress at Work Warning**

As the Heat Stress at Work Warning is now in effect, the Labour Department (LD) reminds employers and employees to take appropriate measures during the effective period of the warning to prevent heat stroke when working in hot weather or hot environments.

Employees who work outdoors or in non-air-conditioned indoor environments face high levels of heat stress and are at a relatively higher risk of heat stroke. Employers should assess the risk factors of heat stress for employees at work and, based on the identified risk factors, take necessary preventive and control measures, including rescheduling work periods, setting up shading covers, providing ventilation and heat dissipation equipment, and reminding employees to replenish water and rest in a timely manner.

The Heat Stress at Work Warning is formulated by the LD based on the Hong Kong Heat Index. There are three levels of the warning: Amber, Red and Black, which help employers and employees better understand the level of heat stress while working outdoors or indoors without air-conditioning systems.

A spokesman for the LD said that when the department issues the Heat Stress at Work Warning, employers must refer to the criteria and recommendations provided in the "[Guidance Notes on Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work](#)" to conduct risk assessments, according to the workloads and other relevant heat stress risk factors, for employees who work outdoors or in non-air-conditioned indoor workplaces. Appropriate rest breaks should be arranged every hour, as far as reasonably practicable, based on various levels of the Heat Stress at Work Warning, to reduce employees' risk of heat stroke.

Employees must also follow instructions to rest on time. Whenever there are any symptoms of heat-related illnesses, such as headache, dizziness, thirst, and nausea, they should rest in a cool and shady place, drink water, and inform employers/supervisors to take appropriate action immediately.

The LD issued the "Guidance Notes on Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work", detailing the various risk factors that should be considered when conducting

heat stress risk assessments and recommending corresponding control measures for identified risk factors for employers' and employees' reference. For the Heat Stress at Work Warning and related guidelines, please refer to the department's thematic webpage:

[www.labour.gov.hk/eng/news/prevention\\_of\\_heat\\_stroke\\_at\\_work.htm](http://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/news/prevention_of_heat_stroke_at_work.htm).

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## **2023 Innovation and Technology Support Programme (Platform & Seed) open for applications**

The Innovation and Technology Commission is inviting applications for the 2023 Innovation and Technology Support Programme (ITSP) (Platform & Seed) from today (July 24) until October 27.

The ITSP (Platform & Seed) provides funding support for platform and seed research and development (R&D) projects undertaken by designated local public research institutes and R&D centres. Platform projects are applied R&D projects that are industry-oriented and have potential for commercialisation, while seed projects are exploratory and forward-looking projects.

Further information is available on the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) website ([www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/supporting-research/itsp/itsp-platform-seed/index.html](http://www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/supporting-research/itsp/itsp-platform-seed/index.html)). For enquiries, please contact the ITF Secretariat (Tel: 3655 5678; email: [enquiry@itf.gov.hk](mailto:enquiry@itf.gov.hk)).

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## **Very Hot Weather Warning issued**

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

The Hong Kong Observatory has issued the Very Hot Weather Warning.

To prevent heat stroke, avoid prolonged activities outdoors.

If engaged in outdoor work or activities, wear a wide-brimmed hat and light-coloured, loose-fitting clothes. Stay in shaded areas as much as possible.

Drink plenty of water, and avoid beverages containing caffeine or alcohol.

If you feel sick, consult a doctor right away.