

Property owner given suspended jail sentence for persistently not complying with removal order

A property owner was convicted and sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment suspended for 18 months, and fined over \$31,000 at the Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts on November 15 for persistently failing to comply with a removal order issued under the Buildings Ordinance (BO) (Cap. 123).

The case involved unauthorised building works (UBWs) at a unit of a three-storey building on Yu Chui Street, Tai Lam, Tuen Mun, which included the removal of a slope, the erection of walls and a staircase, the removal of a protective barrier and the construction of unauthorised structures at the garden on the first floor of the building, with a total area of about 70 square metres. As the UBWs were carried out without prior approval and consent from the Buildings Department (BD), 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 BD in 2022 and was fined \$10,000 upon conviction by the court. Although the owner subsequently removed the unauthorised structures at the garden on the first floor of the building, the owner failed to fully comply with the requirements of the removal order, including the failure to reinstate the slope and protective barrier in accordance with the approved plans and remove the remaining UBWs. The BD then instigated prosecution again in 2023; and the owner was convicted and fined more than \$10,600 by the court. As the owner persisted in not fully complying with the removal order, the BD instigated the third prosecution. The owner was convicted again and sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment suspended for 18 months, and fined a total of \$31,020 at the Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts on November 15.

A spokesman for the BD today (December 2) said, "UBWs may lead to serious consequences. The owners concerned must comply with the removal orders without delay. The BD will continue to take enforcement actions and consider instigating prosecution against the owners again if they persist in not complying with the orders, 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 a fine of \$200,000 and one year's imprisonment, and a further fine of \$20,000 for each day that the offence continues.

Occupational safety and health courses open for applications

The Kwun Tong Occupational Safety and Health Centre of the Labour Department (LD) will launch a wide range of occupational safety and health courses in the first half of 2025. The courses aim at enhancing the working population's understanding of the occupational safety regulations and their awareness of occupational health.

The courses cover a wide range of topics, including:

1. Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance and Regulations
2. Gas Poisoning in Manholes
3. Confined Spaces Regulations
4. Major Safety Regulations Related to Working in Catering Trade
5. Dangerous Substances Regulations
6. Safety Management Regulation
7. Safety Regulations on Manual Handling Operations
8. Regulations Related to Safety in Hotel Industry
9. Safety Regulations on Working in Times of Inclement Weather and Hot Environment
10. Major Safety Regulations Related to Accident Prevention in Office and Storage Work
11. A Brief Introduction to the Regulation on Display Screen Equipment
12. Air Monitoring and Ventilation Systems in the Workplaces
13. Lighting Assessment in the Workplaces
14. Guidance Notes on Standing at Work
15. More Exercise, Smart Work
16. Strategies for the Prevention of Occupational Diseases
17. Occupational Health in Catering Industry
18. Chemicals and Occupational Health
19. Medical Examinations for Workers Engaged in Hazardous Occupations in Industrial Undertakings
20. Manual Handling Operations and Prevention of Back Injuries
21. Occupational Health for Security Guards
22. Chemicals and Occupational Health in Hotel Industry
23. Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work in a Hot Environment
24. Occupational Health for Office Workers
25. Health Hints on the Use of Computer
26. Prevention of Upper and Lower Limb Disorders
27. Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders for Office Workers
28. Occupational Health for Cleansing Workers
29. Occupational Contact Dermatitis
30. Manual Handling Operations and Prevention of Back Injuries for Workers of Residential Care Home
31. Occupational Health for Professional Drivers
32. Work and Common Gastrointestinal Diseases

33. Occupational Stress
34. Happy Workplace
35. Work and Healthy Lifestyle
36. Work and Diabetes Mellitus and Hypertension
37. First Aid in the Workplaces
38. Work and Cardiovascular and Cerebrovascular Diseases
39. Easy Tips for Healthy Eating at Work

The courses will be conducted in Cantonese at the LD's Occupational Safety and Health Centre, G/F, Kwun Tong Community Health Centre Building, 60 Hip Wo Street, Kwun Tong. Enrolment is free.

Members of the public can apply via the online platform www.oshsreg.gov.hk/en or by fax. Please visit the LD's website (www.labour.gov.hk/eng/osh/content6.htm) for more details and call 2361 8240 for enquiries.

Latest Christmas mail posting date for local delivery

Hongkong Post announced today (December 2) that the latest Christmas mail posting date for local delivery before Christmas Day is December 20 (Friday). Mail posted after this date might run the risk of not being delivered in time because of the anticipated seasonal work pressure. Members of the public are advised to post mail as early as possible in order to avoid a last-minute rush.

To ensure that greetings sent by air mail are delivered before Christmas, members of the public are reminded to post their mail on or before the latest dates of posting. A complete list of the latest dates of posting for this year's Christmas mail by air is displayed at all post offices. Customers may also find the information on Hongkong Post's website at www.hongkongpost.hk or contact the Hongkong Post enquiry hotline at 2921 2222.

Rural By-election results

The Rural By-election was held today (December 1). Results for the Indigenous Inhabitant Representative By-election and the Resident

Representative By-election are as follows:

Indigenous Inhabitant Representative By-election results:

District/Rural Committee/Village	Candidate No./Name (No. of votes obtained)
Tai Po Sai Kung North Rural Committee Ko Tong	1) Wan, Yuet Foon (38; elected) 2) Wong, Kin Man (12)

Resident Representative By-election results:

District/Rural Committee/Village	Candidate No./Name (No. of votes obtained)
Sai Kung Sai Kung Rural Committee Nam Wai	1) Shing, Wan On (122; elected) 2) Hiew, Chin (106)
Tai Po Tai Po Rural Committee Fung Yuen	1) Ip, Pak Wah Andy (18) 2) Ip, Chi Kang (50; elected)
Kau Lung Hang	1) Chan, Tai Fuk (42; elected) 2) Lee, Lok Man (33)
Tuen Mun Tuen Mun Rural Committee Tseng Tau Tsuen (Upper)	1) Leung, Wai Cheong (9) 2) Cheung, Kwun Chung (36; elected)

[SKDO receives report of theft of electronic devices from Sub-district Care Team](#)

The Sai Kung District Office (SKDO) received a report of theft of electronic devices from a Sub-district Care Team yesterday (November 30).

The operating organisation of the Sai Kung Hang Hau East Sub-district Care Team (i.e. the Hang Hau District Festival and Special Event Preparatory Committee) reported to the SKDO yesterday that there was a theft of a laptop and a mobile phone from a locked room by breaking the door lock of their office located at the address of Hang Hau Rural Committee (1 Hang Hau Road, New Territories). The equipment contain personal data of the service recipients of that Sub-district Care Team. It is estimated that the data involves names and phone numbers of a few hundred persons, some with addresses and identity card numbers. The operating organisation confirmed that they have been complying with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486), and have properly handled and kept confidential the relevant personal data in accordance with the Care Team's principle of use of data and confidentiality. Both electronic devices and files containing personal data are protected by high-strength passwords. Under these security measures, the risk of data leakage should be relatively low.

The Police have classified the incident as a burglary case, and the operating organisation has reported the incident to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data. The Hang Hau Rural Committee and the operating organisation are reviewing, and will further strengthen, their security measures. They are also reminding residents and service recipients to be vigilant. If anyone suspects a person impersonating a member of the Sai Kung Hang Hau East Sub-district Care Team, residents can contact the Care Team or the SKDO to verify their identity.

The SKDO sincerely apologises to the persons affected for any inconvenience caused, and has set up a hotline (6278 0536) for enquiries. The SKDO has also reminded all Care Teams to stay vigilant and further strengthen security measures and stressed that they should continue to handle and keep personal data confidential according to the guidelines.