

Interdepartmental vegetation fire and mountain rescue exercise 2024 held (with photos)

An interdepartmental vegetation fire and mountain rescue exercise was held this morning (November 29). Participating departments and organisations comprised the Fire Services Department (FSD); the Hong Kong Police Force; the Government Flying Service; the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department; the Auxiliary Medical Service; the Civil Aid Service; the Home Affairs Department; the Social Welfare Department; and the Hospital Authority.

The exercise was conducted at the MacLehose Trail at Shing Mun Reservoir in the New Territories. The FSD deployed about 90 fire and ambulance personnel in total for the exercise, and applied various innovative technologies including the Patient Tagging System for Multiple Casualties Incidents, the Mountain Rescue Mobile App, viewshed analysis and the Mobile Phone Locator to locate persons awaiting rescue and enhance the efficiency of mountain rescue operations.

The exercise aimed to enhance co-ordination, communication, command and control as well as logistical support capabilities among different departments and organisations during large-scale hill fire and mountain rescue operations. It also helped test the effectiveness and co-operation of different emergency formations during firefighting and rescue operations. Members of the District Fire Safety Committees and the District Services and Community Care Teams also attended the exercise as observers to assist in promoting hill fire prevention and safety awareness in mountaineering in the community.

The FSD called for public attention to the risk of possible vegetation fires, which could spread more severely and rapidly due to prevailing winds amid recent dry weather. The spokesman also urged the public not to leave any ignition sources during hiking activities and reminded them to evacuate to a safe place if they encounter a vegetation fire.



