

Postal services to Japan subject to delay

Hongkong Post announced today (September 5) that, as advised by the postal administration of Japan, due to the impact of Typhoon Jebi, mail delivery services (including Speedpost, parcels and letter post items) to the prefectures of Ehime, Hiroshima, Hyogo (including Kobe), Kagawa, Kochi, Kyoto, Nara, Okayama, Osaka, Shiga, Shimane, Tokushima, Tottori, Wakayama and Yamaguchi with postcodes from 5200000 to 7999999 are subject to delay.

Property owner fined over \$60,000 for not complying with removal order

A property owner was fined \$60,800 for failing to comply with a removal order issued under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap 123) (B0) at Eastern Magistrates' Courts last week.

The order involved an illegal structure at the roof of a domestic building at Quarry Bay Street, Hong Kong. The illegal structure was used for habitation and was around 21 square metres in size. As the unauthorised building works (UBWs) were erected without prior approval from the Buildings Department (BD), contravening the B0, a removal order was served on the owner of the premises under section 24(1) of the B0.

As the owner repeatedly gave excuses and failed to remove the UBWs upon the expiry of the removal order, she was prosecuted by the BD. The owner was convicted at Eastern Magistrates' Courts on August 30.

"UBWs may adversely affect the structural and fire safety of a building, leading to serious consequences. Owners should seek professional advice before carrying out any building works in their premises," a spokesman for the BD said today (September 5).

Pursuant to section 40(1BA) of the B0, any person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with an order served on him under section 24(1) of the B0, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of \$200,000 and to imprisonment for one year, as well as a further fine of \$20,000 for each day that the offence has continued.

Employers and employees should take precautions against heat stroke

As the Hong Kong Observatory has issued the Very Hot Weather Warning, the Labour Department (LD) reminds employers and employees to take appropriate precautions to prevent heat stroke when working in a hot or humid environment.

Heat stroke could occur if an employee works in a hot or humid environment for prolonged periods of time, as the body may fail to regulate its temperature by effective heat dissipation through sweating.

The early symptoms of heat stroke include feeling thirsty, fatigue, nausea and headache. Later, the victim may experience shortness of breath, rapid and weak pulse, dizziness, confusion or even loss of consciousness and convulsion.

For example, construction workers, cleaning workers, kitchen workers and porters are more prone to heat stroke when working for long hours in such an environment, especially if appropriate preventive measures have not been taken.

The LD reminds employers to arrange for a suitable assessment of the risk of heat stress in the work environment and take appropriate preventive measures. The LD has produced two leaflets entitled "Checklist for Heat Stress Assessment at Construction Sites" and "Checklist for Heat Stress Assessment at Outdoor Cleansing Workplaces" respectively. Employers engaged in construction or outdoor cleaning work are advised to refer to these checklists in assessing the risk of heat stress at their workplaces. As for heat stress assessment at a workplace in general, employers can refer to a booklet entitled "Risk Assessment for the Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work" produced by the LD.

The LD also reminds employers and employees to take the following precautions to prevent heat stroke:

Employers

- (1) Take heed of the weather report and adopt shift work arrangements for employees to reduce their exposure to the hot environment, or arrange appropriate rest breaks for them during very hot periods;
- (2) Avoid working under direct sunlight and set up temporary sunshade wherever possible;
- (3) Provide cool potable water for employees at all times during work. If necessary, provide drinks containing minerals for employees to replenish loss of electrolytes during profuse sweating;
- (4) Minimise physical demands by using tools or mechanical aids at work;
- (5) Increase air flow by enhancing ventilation or air-conditioning as

appropriate;

(6) Isolate heat-generating facilities at the workplace and use insulating materials to minimise heat dissipation to the other work areas; and

(7) Provide relevant information and training for employees on heat stroke such as preventive measures and first aid treatment.

Employees

(1) Wear clothing made of suitable materials (for example, cotton) that is loose-fitting and light-coloured to help heat dissipation, minimise heat absorption and allow sweat evaporation;

(2) Wear a wide-brimmed hat when working outdoors;

(3) Drink plenty of water or other appropriate beverages to replenish the fluids and electrolytes lost through sweating; and

(4) Whenever there are any symptoms of heat stroke, inform supervisors and take appropriate actions immediately.

Some employees may have difficulty in adapting to a hot working environment owing to their own health conditions. Employers should take this into account and consider the recommendations of their doctors when assigning work to these employees.

In addition to the publications on risk assessment, the LD has produced a leaflet entitled "Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work in a Hot Environment" for the public. The publications can be obtained free of charge from the offices of the Occupational Health Service of the LD, or downloaded from the department's webpage at www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/content2_9.htm.

The LD organises occupational health talks in public places and at its own training venues regularly to raise employers' and employees' awareness of occupational health. Details of health talks on the prevention of heat stroke at work in a hot environment in September are as follows:

(A)

Dates: September 13 and 24 (am)

September 5, 20 and 27 (pm)

Time: Half-day

Venue: Occupational Safety and Health Training Centre of the Labour Department, 13/F, Kowloon Tsuen Wan I, 68 Chung On Street, Tsuen Wan, New Territories

(B)

Date: September 14

Time: 3pm to 4.30pm

Venue: Activity Room I, Hong Kong Central Library, 66 Causeway Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

(Opposite Victoria Park, MTR Tin Hau Station Exit B)

For enrolment or enquiries about these occupational health talks, please call 2852 4040 or 2361 8240 (for talks organised at the Occupational Safety and Health Centre). Moreover, the LD also provides an outreach health

education service and occupational health nurses will, on invitation, disseminate occupational health information at workplaces at a convenient time. Please contact the nursing officer at 2852 4062 for details. All these health talks are free of charge.

[Seminar in Kagoshima promotes Hong Kong's advantages \(with photos\)](#)

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Tokyo) today (September 5) held a business seminar in Kagoshima City, Japan to encourage Japanese companies to seize the many trade and investment opportunities Hong Kong offers and choose Hong Kong as their partner in expanding into the global market.

Speaking at the seminar, the Principal Hong Kong Economic and Trade Representative (Tokyo), Ms Shirley Yung, highlighted Hong Kong's competitive advantages including its strategic location, free market principles, sound infrastructure, low and simple tax regime and superb connectivity with the world.

"Hong Kong is strategically located at the heart of Asia and the gateway to China. As one of the freest economies in the world, Hong Kong is also well placed as a connector with the Mainland and the international markets. With a well-established legal and financial system as well as a pool of home-grown talents who are not only conversant in English and Chinese but also familiar with both Eastern and Western cultures, Hong Kong is your natural choice when choosing a partner to expand your business," she said.

Other speakers at the seminar included representatives from the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the Hong Kong Tourism Board, Invest Hong Kong and a Japanese company which has successfully expanded its business in Hong Kong.

The seminar was organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Tokyo) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, and supported by the Kagoshima Prefectural Government.

After the seminar, Ms Yung attended the Round Table Meeting of the 21st Hong Kong-Kagoshima Conference together with representatives from the Home Affairs Bureau, the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Tourism Board to exchange views with the prefecture's government officials on various topics ranging from economy, trade promotion and tourism to cultural exchange. The Hong Kong-Kagoshima Conference is held biennially in Hong Kong and Kagoshima to foster bilateral relations and collaboration between the two places.



Missing woman in Tsuen Wan located

A woman who went missing in Tsuen Wan was located.

Ng Moo-ching, aged 81, went missing after she was last seen at Shing Mun Country Park on September 2 afternoon. Her family made a report to Police on September 3.

The woman was located at Shing Mun Country Park this morning (September 5). She sustained abrasion to her legs and back, and was sent to Yan Chai Hospital for examination in conscious state. No suspicious circumstances were detected.