

# Public should take precautionary measures against carbon monoxide poisoning

Following a notification from Yan Chai Hospital (YCH) on a cluster of carbon monoxide poisoning, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (November 24) appealed to members of the public to take precautionary measures against carbon monoxide poisoning.

The cluster involved two males and one female, aged between 13 and 56, who are family members living together. The 56-year-old male was found unconscious after having shower yesterday (November 23). He was immediately sent to YCH and was later transferred to Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital for treatment. The other two persons, who were exposed to carbon monoxide, were also sent to YCH for examination. They are in stable condition. Two of the patients have been discharged.

A preliminary investigation revealed that all of them were diagnosed with carbon monoxide poisoning. When the 56-year-old patient took the shower, all the windows in the flat were closed and the exhaust fan was not turned on.

A site investigation by the EMSD discovered that the subject gas water heater is of a flueless type and should not be used in bathrooms. The model concerned has not been approved by the EMSD and did not bear a "GU" mark. It is preliminarily suspected that the exhaust flue gas generated by the gas water heater without flue was discharged into the bathroom, coupled with poor ventilation, carbon monoxide accumulated due to insufficient oxygen for combustion and thus led to the carbon monoxide poisoning. The EMSD has seized the subject gas water heater and will investigate whether any person has contravened the Gas Safety Ordinance.

The CHP said that carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless and tasteless gas which is a by-product from incomplete combustion of any fuel which contains carbon, such as wood, natural gas and gasoline.

Exposure to a low concentration of carbon monoxide can lead to a range of symptoms such as dizziness, headache, tiredness and nausea; whereas exposure to a high concentration of carbon monoxide can lead to impaired vision, disturbed co-ordination, unconsciousness, brain damage or even death.

The CHP reminded members of the public that a gas water heater should be used in a well-ventilated area. They should seek medical attention immediately if suspected of developing symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.

The EMSD also reminds members of the public of the following:

1. Occupants should buy and use gas water heater which has been approved by the EMSD and bears a "GU" mark;
2. All installations, replacements or repair work on gas water heaters must be carried out by a registered gas installer employed by a registered gas contractor;
3. Gas appliances including gas water heaters and gas cookers should be used in well-ventilated areas, helped by switching on extraction fans and not closing all windows and doors; and
4. Occupants should arrange regular safety inspection of gas water heater every 18 months by a registered gas contractor. If the condition of the gas water heater is in doubt, please stop using it immediately and contact the registered gas supply company.

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## **Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected cannabis buds worth about \$2.3 million at airport (with photo)**

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (November 23) detected a drug trafficking case involving baggage concealment at Hong Kong International Airport and seized about 10 kilograms of suspected cannabis buds with an estimated market value of about \$2.3 million.

Two female passengers, aged 38 and 44, arrived in Hong Kong from Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday. During Customs clearance, Customs officers found a total of about 10kg of suspected cannabis buds inside their check-in suitcases. They were subsequently arrested.

The two arrested persons have each been charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug. The case will be brought up at the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (November 25).

Customs will continue to step up enforcement against drug trafficking activities through intelligence analysis. The department also reminds members of the public to stay alert and not participate in drug trafficking activities for monetary return. They must not accept hiring or delegation from another party to carry controlled items into and out of Hong Kong. They are also reminded not to carry unknown items for other people.

Customs will continue to apply a risk assessment approach and focus on selecting passengers from high-risk regions for clearance to combat transnational drug trafficking activities.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 182 8080 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account ([crimereport@customs.gov.hk](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)) or online form ([eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002](http://eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002)).



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## [Liquor Licensing Board to meet on Tuesday](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Liquor Licensing Board:

The Liquor Licensing Board will meet on Tuesday (November 26) to consider an application for renewal of a liquor licence.

The application is:

Kowloon:

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Hong Kong Harbour Restaurant in Sham Shui Po

The meeting will be held at 9.45am in the conference room, Room 102, 1/F, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

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## Red flags hoisted at some beaches

Attention TV/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 (November 24) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Stanley Main Beach and Big Wave Bay Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island; and Silverstrand Beach and Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at these beaches.

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## Nurturing legal talent via secondment

To boost Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific Region, the Department of Justice (DoJ) nurtures legal talent to empower them to become well-versed in international law via secondment programmes.

News.gov.hk spoke with representatives from the DoJ and international organisations collaborating on the secondment arrangements to discover the features and merits of such programmes. Plus, previous secondees working overseas, including a barrister and a solicitor, also shared their experiences and insights.

The story is available at [www.news.gov.hk/eng/feature](http://www.news.gov.hk/eng/feature) today (November 24) in text and video format.