

Postal services to Thailand subject to delay

Hongkong Post announced today (December 17) that, as advised by the postal administration of Thailand, due to flooding, mail delivery services to the areas with postcodes 80xxx and 84107 are subject to delay.

SEE to visit Beijing

The Secretary for Environment and Ecology, Mr Tse Chin-wan, will depart for Beijing this afternoon (December 17) to witness the signing of the Cooperation Arrangement on Quality and Safety Management between the State Administration for Market Regulation and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), with a view to strengthening the information communication and co-ordinating co-operation between the Mainland and Hong Kong in the electrical and mechanical aspects, ensuring the effective implementation of safety monitoring, management and quality control by both sides.

During his visit to Beijing, Mr Tse will also visit local green and smart park, inspect liquid hydrogen-fuelled vehicle facilities, and call on a state-owned enterprise to learn about the country's inspection and certification work.

The Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services, Mr Poon Kwok-ying, as well as officers from the Environment and Ecology Bureau, the Development Bureau and the EMSD will also join the visit.

Mr Tse will return to Hong Kong in the afternoon on December 19. During his absence, the Under Secretary for Environment and Ecology, Miss Diane Wong, will be the Acting Secretary for Environment and Ecology.

Fatal traffic accident in Yuen Long

Police are investigating a fatal traffic accident happened in Yuen Long this afternoon (December 16) in which a man died.

At 4.56pm, when a forklift truck driven by a 30-year-old Mainland man was turning left to Kung Um Road from an unnamed road near 292 Kung Um Road,

it reportedly went out of control and was side-turned.

The driver was pressed by the forklift truck and was rescued by firemen. Sustaining multiple injuries, he was rushed to Pok Oi Hospital in unconscious state and was certified dead at 5.53pm.

Investigation by the Special Investigation Team of Traffic, New Territories North is under way.

Anyone who witnessed the accident or has any information to offer is urged to contact the investigating officers on 3661 3800.

CHP investigates food poisoning cluster

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (December 16) investigating a food poisoning cluster affecting 13 persons, and reminded the public to maintain personal, food and environmental hygiene to prevent foodborne diseases.

The cluster involved 12 males and one female aged between 27 and 61, who developed abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea about 13 to 54 hours after having a buffet lunch at Billow Bar Seafood Bistro located in Tai Po on December 8.

Six of the affected persons sought medical advice. None required hospitalisation.

Initial investigations by the CHP revealed that the affected persons had consumed common food including raw oysters. The incident might have been caused by norovirus.

Personnel from the CHP and the Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department have conducted an inspection at the restaurant, and instructed the premises concerned to suspend serving incriminated food items with immediate effect, carry out cleaning and disinfection of the premises and improve food preparation process and food hygiene. The officers have also provided health education related to food safety and environmental hygiene to the staff of the premises.

Norovirus infection typically causes acute gastroenteritis. It is also a common cause of food poisoning and is very often related to consumption of undercooked or raw shellfish. The disease affects people of all age groups and tends to be more common during winter.

To prevent foodborne diseases, members of the public are reminded to

maintain personal, food and environmental hygiene at all times. When dining out, one should:

- Avoid eating raw seafood;
- Be a discerning consumer in choosing cold dishes, including sashimi, sushi and raw oysters at a buffet;
- Choose pasteurised eggs, egg products or dried egg powder for dishes that often use lightly cooked or uncooked eggs;
- Patronise only reliable and licensed restaurants;
- Store and reheat pre-cooked or leftover foods properly before consumption;
- Ensure food is thoroughly cooked before eating during a hotpot or barbecue meal;
- Handle raw and cooked foods carefully and separate them completely during the cooking process;
- Use two sets of chopsticks and utensils to handle raw and cooked foods;
- Avoid patronising illegal food hawkers;
- Drink boiled water;
- Refrain from trying to use salt, vinegar, wine or wasabi to kill bacteria as they are not effective; and
- Always wash hands before eating and after going to the toilet.

[CS and SCS visit Drainage Services Department \(with photos\)](#)

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, and the Secretary for the Civil Service, Mrs Ingrid Yeung, visited the Drainage Services Department (DSD) this afternoon (December 16) to learn more about the department's daily operations and the latest progress on its drainage improvement works. They also toured the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works (SCISTW), which is the largest of its type in Hong Kong. The Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Clement Leung, also joined the visit.

Mr Chan and other officials first met with the Director of Drainage Services, Mr Ringo Mok, together with the directorate staff and were briefed on the department's progress on the drainage improvement works in Hong Kong. The DSD is taking forward expeditiously seven drainage improvement works projects, covering Wong Tai Sin, Hong Kong Island East and other areas hit by severe floods in the past. Apart from adopting parallel tendering, the department also strives to shorten the duration of engineering design, procurement and construction for commencing and completing the improvement works as soon as possible to enhance the flood prevention ability of the districts concerned.

To cope with the more frequent extreme weather conditions in recent

years, the DSD is dedicated to strengthening the operation of the Emergency Control Centre and the emergency response teams, and applying innovative technologies to enhance work safety and efficacy. For instance, the deployment of a desilting robot, "River Ranger", for emergency clearance works, with a view to allowing the community to resume normal operation within the shortest period of time, and an underground drainage inspection robot, "Tumbler Inspection Ball", and crawler-type survey robots to conduct surveying works to determine the status of underground pipelines. A "Tumbler Inspection Ball" robot can provide 360-degree all-round stable viewing, and then combine the 360-degree real-life pictures with artificial intelligence, which helps officers check the pipeline status accurately. In addition, the DSD has made advance arrangements by completing the "Strategic Planning Study on Flood Management Against Sea Level Rise and Extreme Rainfall" soon and formulating new and comprehensive territory-wide flood management strategies.

Mr Chan said that in the face of various challenges brought about by climate change, the Government is dedicated to implementing a pre-emptive strategic approach and stepping up preventive and contingency measures on various fronts to protect the lives and property of people. He stressed that all government departments are working at full steam to scale up their handling capabilities to minimise as far as possible the impact of inclement and even extreme weather conditions on the community, while the DSD plays a vital role in flood prevention and clearing blockages in drainage systems.

Mr Chan advised the DSD to get prepared for the future rainy and tropical cyclone season by deploying adequate manpower and resources, stepping up inspection of its drainage facilities, carrying out timely desilting work, ensuring the clearance of drainage channels across the territory and disseminating information to the public properly. He and Mrs Yeung encouraged DSD colleagues to stand fast at their posts, rise to the challenges ahead, maintain close communication with other relevant departments and organisations, and demonstrate professionalism and team spirit in order to make good preparations for inclement and even extreme weather conditions.

Mr Chan and other officials then visited the SCISTW Main Pumping Station and were briefed by the staff on the DSD's work in taking forward the sewage treatment initiatives such as the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme. They also met with duty officers at the Main Control Room of the SCISTW to learn more about the department's work in monitoring various sewage treatment processes around the clock as well as its contingency strategies in case of inclement and even extreme weather conditions.

They then viewed the SCISTW from a green roof, where they were briefed on the sewage treatment facilities as well as the operation of facilities such as Clean Harbour 2, an advanced vessel for the transportation of sludge from the SCISTW to Tuen Mun for turning waste into energy. Meanwhile, they also gained a better understanding of the department's progress in promoting the use of renewable energy at the SCISTW, including the installation of thin-film photovoltaic systems, which is expected to be completed next year and will be the largest of its kind in Hong Kong.

Mr Chan hoped that the DSD would continue to break new ground while upholding fundamental principles, and spare no effort to provide world-class wastewater and stormwater drainage services, and at the same time help to build a sustainable and better future for Hong Kong by utilising innovative technology and renewable energy.

Mrs Yeung also met with staff representatives from various grades to exchange views on issues of concern.

