

**For information  
on 12 November 2013**

**LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Tackling the problem of proliferation of flies in the Tuen Mun district and  
Ha Pak Nai**

**Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on the follow-up actions and investigations carried out by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and other relevant government departments and organisations in respect of the recent proliferation of flies in the Tuen Mun district.

**Background**

2. In early October 2013, FEHD was informed of the problem of proliferation of flies in a number of areas in the Tuen Mun district. Thereupon, FEHD, in collaboration with other relevant government departments and organisations, deployed staff to inspect the areas where a relatively large number of flies were found, for the purpose of ascertaining the main cause of the problem and mapping out enhancements to the cleansing, preventive and control work on the ground.

**Progress of follow-up actions**

Markets under The Link Real Estate Investment Trust in the Tuen Mun district

3. FEHD conducted investigations in the Leung King Estate, Sam Shing Estate and Butterfly Estate Markets respectively on 8, 9 and 10 October where fly infestations were reported. These markets were under The Link Real Estate Investment Trust. FEHD staff gave advice on environmental hygiene and fly control to The Link Management Limited (The Link) which managed these markets. The measures suggested include increasing the frequency of cleansing work in the markets and applying fly sprays, keeping the floors of the markets in a clean and hygienic state, washing the floors and channels frequently and preventing flies from breeding in food waste. The Link was also requested to remind market tenants to cover food properly and cover the rubbish bins well. FEHD staff reviewed the conditions of the markets from 10 to 12 October, and noted that with the implementation of the preventive measures by The Link, significant improvement had been made with regard to fly infestations in these markets. FEHD staff further reviewed the

conditions of the markets from 24 to 26 October respectively and did not find any obvious signs of fly infestations.

4. The Housing Department will also closely monitor the hygienic conditions of its public rental housing estates in the Tuen Mun district. Cleansing work will be stepped up in public areas where necessary in order to ensure the cleanliness and environmental hygiene of the estates.

#### Ha Pak Nai Tsuen, Yuen Long

5. FEHD staff carried out inspections on 11, 17 and 18 October respectively in Ha Pak Nai Tsuen, Yuen Long and the vicinity of potential fly breeding grounds, such as refuse collection points, public toilets, channels, gullies, farm lands, food waste processing plant, pig farms, etc. They did not find any obvious breeding of flies. Nevertheless, FEHD staff had immediately arranged the pest control contractors to strengthen fly control work in places like refuse collections points, channels, gullies, drainage, etc. in the village.

6. Villagers were advised to handle household refuse properly and cover the rubbish bins tightly to prevent breeding of flies. FEHD had also asked the pest control contractors to increase the frequency of pest control work in the area when necessary.

#### West New Territories Landfill

7. FEHD paid visits to the West New Territories (WENT) Landfill with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on 8, 11 and 18 October. No serious fly infestations were found in the WENT Landfill during the visits.

8. EPD pointed out that the operation of the WENT Landfill has all along been subject to stringent contract requirements and environmental legislation. The landfill contractor has also carried out on-going pest control work in the landfill. No serious problem of proliferation of flies has occurred in the landfill recently. Nevertheless, EPD has forthwith stepped up inspections with the landfill contractor and discussed with FEHD more effective pest control measures, including more frequent pest disinfection work. Furthermore, during the investigation in different places in the Tuen Mun district and villages nearby, FEHD found a significant number of house flies (which mainly breed in household rubbish); blow flies (which mainly breed in rotten fruits and vegetables as well as animal faeces); and flesh flies (which mainly breed in decaying meat). Places suitable for breeding of the relevant kinds of flies were also present near the locations where these flies were found. Flies will usually move about and breed in places where they hatched out. Apart from the places where fly infestations were reported, FEHD did not find

relatively higher level of fly activities in Lung Kwu Tang and along the road within several hundred metres of the entrances of the WENT Landfill.

## **Conclusion**

9. Currently, there is no evidence to suggest that the recent problem of proliferation of flies in the Tuen Mun district originates from the landfill. FEHD will continue to keep in view the situation and render professional assistance to traders, The Link and the EPD contractor where necessary.

10. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Food and Health Bureau  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Environmental Protection Department  
Housing Department  
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