

香港特別行政區政府
保安局



The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Security Bureau

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By Email

16 March 2017

Miss Betty MA
Council Business Division
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss MA,

**Request for adding an agenda item of “Reviewing and enhancing
the health check and protective gear for firefighters”
by Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai**

Thank you for your letter of 22 February 2017.

The Security Bureau and the Fire Services Department (FSD) express our deepest condolences on the passing of an Acting Senior Fireman on 16 February 2017. FSD is rendering every support and assistance to his bereaved family.

With respect to Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai’s concern over the health check, training and protective gear for firefighters, in consultation with the FSD, our response is as follows -

FSD attaches great importance to the occupational safety and health of its staff. At present, all applicants for posts in disciplined grades in the Department are subject to medical examination before appointment (except for

serving members who are appointed to new posts with the same physical fitness requirements), in order to confirm that their health conditions are fit for employment and meet the physical requirements of the posts concerned. In addition, FSD members assigned for special duties are required to receive regular check-ups pursuant to the relevant regulations. For instance, it is mandatory for FSD's divers and emergency pressurised rescue team members working under high ambient pressure to receive regular health checks. If a serving officer is suspected to be physically or mentally unfit to perform the principal duties of his office, or if an officer himself requests to be examined, FSD will make a request to the Hospital Authority for convening a Medical Board to assess the health conditions of the officer concerned in accordance with the prevailing Civil Service Regulations.

With regard to training, FSD has been providing its fire personnel with a variety of firefighting and rescue training, the contents of which are kept under review, to ensure that they are well equipped to handle different types of emergencies. The Fire and Ambulance Services Academy at Pak Shing Kok, Tseung Kwan O was commissioned last year. The diverse and advanced simulation training facilities of the Academy help enhance FSD personnel's professional knowledge and rescue techniques in handling emergencies involving railways, tunnels, vessels, aircrafts and fuel facilities, while improving their response and co-ordination capability. Furthermore, FSD has issued guidelines reminding its personnel of matters that warrant their attention when engaging in various physically demanding jobs or sports activities, including how to conduct a self-assessment of one's health conditions to avoid accidents.

On the protection of the safety of its personnel, FSD is committed to providing them with the best protective clothing and equipment, as well as operation tools of the highest rescue standards, to ensure their operational safety and efficiency. The existing firefighting protective clothing and equipment of FSD are comparable to the fire brigades in other advanced countries/regions around the world. For example, as far as protective clothing concerned, FSD introduced in 2011 the Structural Firefighting Protective Suit, commonly known as the "Gold Suit". Compliant with and certified to the European standards, it provides adequate protection for each of our firefighters during operations.

FSD will continue to review different types of tools and equipment from time to time and keep abreast of the latest development of firefighting equipment for introducing suitable equipment for frontline personnel to ensure their operational safety and efficiency. In the course of the review, the

Department will also maintain close communication with staff members to ensure that the equipment can better meet the needs of frontline personnel.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Chan', with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

(Alex Chan)
for Secretary for Security

c.c. Director of Fire Services
(Attn: Mr YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

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