

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**Reply Serial No.**

**DEVB(PL)070**

**Question Serial No.**

2147

Head : 82 Buildings Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Under the targets of providing 24-hour emergency services to respond to emergencies outside office hours, the actual performance in attending to the cases within three hours in other areas in the New Territories was only 87.5% and 85.7% in 2007 and 2008 respectively. But in 2009, the planned target is 100%. Has the Buildings Department made corresponding manpower arrangements to ensure that the target will be met in 2009?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The target of responding to emergencies outside office hours within three hours is for cases occurring in the more remote areas in the New Territories. In 2007, the Buildings Department (BD) handled 791 emergency cases in total, out of which eight cases fell under this category of the three-hour response time pledge. Amongst these eight cases, the three-hour pledge was exceeded in one case. As a result, the performance in this category became 87.5%. The case occurred in a remote village in Sha Tau Kok and the inspection was hindered by poor traffic conditions immediately after the hoisting of typhoon signal No.8.

In 2008, the BD handled 1 222 emergency cases, out of which 14 cases fell under the category of the three-hour response time pledge. Amongst these 14 cases, the three-hour pledge was exceeded in two cases. As a result, the performance in this category was 85.7%. One of the cases occurred when an extraordinarily large number of emergency cases was received within a short period of time during which the red and black rainstorm warning signals were hoisted. The other case took place in Cheung Chau where the ferry service was suspended during the hoisting of typhoon signal No. 8.

Adequate manpower has been deployed in the BD to deal with emergency cases. All of the three cases exceeding the three-hour response time pledge in 2007 and 2008 were due to extraordinary inclement weather coupled with the remoteness of the sites concerned. The BD will continue to monitor the provision of emergency services and strive to meet the target in 2009.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>    AU Choi-kai    </u>
Post Title	<u>    Director of Buildings    </u>
Date	<u>    17 March 2009    </u>