

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)043

Question Serial No.

0086

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

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the target on 24-hour emergency services, the actual rate of responding to emergencies within three hours for cases which occurred outside office hours in other areas in the New Territories was only 87.5% in 2007. Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) Why was the rate below the target?
- (b) What are the measures to ensure responding to emergencies within the target time?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Out of the total of 791 emergency cases handled by the Buildings Department (BD) in 2007, only eight cases occurred outside office hours and fell under the category of the three-hour response time pledge (for areas in the New Territories other than new towns). Among these eight cases, the three-hour pledge was exceeded by 35 minutes in one case. As a result, the performance in this category became 87.5%. This 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.

The procedures in handling emergency cases including the duties for staff to attend to emergency cases within the pledge time and the details of required reporting arrangements and established practices are stipulated in the BD's Emergency Handbook which all duty officers are required to follow. We will continue to monitor our provision of emergency services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CHEUNG Hau-wai _____

Post Title Director of Buildings _____

Date 19 March 2008 _____