

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

**Reply Serial No.**

**DEVB(PL)067**

Question Serial No.

1652

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

Programme:                      Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer:                      Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau:                      Secretary for Development

Question :

Please provide the details of work, and the manpower and expenditure involved, in respect of the targets on 24-hour emergency services. Among them, the actual rate of responding to emergencies "within three hours for cases in other areas in N.T." was only 87.5% in 2007. What were the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

Emergency cases are dealt with by existing staff of the Buildings Department (BD). Officers responsible for different geographical districts will carry out emergency inspections during office hours as part of their normal duties in the respective districts. Designated officers are put on a duty roster to perform emergency duties outside office hours on a rotational basis. As emergency services are part and parcel of the Department's duties, there is no breakdown of the expenditure incurred in this area.

Out of the total of 791 emergency cases handled by the BD in 2007, 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, there was only one case in which the three-hour pledge was exceeded by 35 minutes. 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.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters                      CHEUNG Hau-wai \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title                      Director of Buildings \_\_\_\_\_

Date                      20 March 2008 \_\_\_\_\_