

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB237****(Question Serial No. 6001)**

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

What was the number of gas incidents investigated by the Government in each of the past three years and what were the details of work, expenditure and manpower involved, and follow-up actions taken and their effectiveness? What were the causes of these incidents? Were there any penalties imposed by the Government? If yes, what are the legal basis for these penalties and what are the number of such cases and the reasons for the penalties, the number of repeat contraventions, as well as the maximum and minimum penalties imposed in each year? Please provide the information by year and District Council district.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth (Member Question No. 170)

Reply:

The numbers of suspected gas incidents investigated over the past three years (from 2012 to 2014) were 334, 339 and 332 respectively, and the numbers of confirmed gas incidents were 255, 245 and 238 respectively. The number of gas incidents in 2014 was down by about 7% compared to 2012.

These gas incidents basically fall into three categories – (1) about 90% were related to gas pipe/cylinder/fitting faults; (2) about 8% were related to careless or improper use of gas fittings; and (3) about 2% were related to other matters.

The numbers of confirmed gas incidents in the past three years by District Council district are shown in the following table:

Year	Central & Western				Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowloon City	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong
	Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Southern	Mong	Po	City	Sin	Tong
2012	27	25	34	12	26	7	14	6	19
2013	18	13	40	12	24	9	17	9	18
2014	15	18	36	8	28	12	23	7	24
Year	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	North	Tai Po	Sai Kung	Sha Tin	Kwai Tsing	Islands
	Wan	Mun	Long	North	Po	Kung	Tin	Tsing	Islands
2012	14	14	6	7	9	8	14	11	2
2013	7	11	7	5	3	18	12	18	4
2014	5	13	3	2	2	11	16	13	2

Gas incident investigations were conducted by engineers and inspectors whose responsibilities also include such duties as inspection, public education and publicity. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) does not have the breakdown of manpower or expenditure involved in incident investigation only.

Based on the analysis of gas incidents investigated, public education and publicity programmes as well as inspection plans are developed with the aim of enhancing gas safety. Gas safety publicity work will continue to be carried out in 2015 with a view to reducing the number of gas incidents.

Prosecution actions against contraventions are taken under the Gas Safety Ordinance, Cap. 51.

The numbers of prosecutions (repeat contraventions) in the past three years by District Council district are shown in the following table:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Central &</u>				<u>Yau Tsim</u>	<u>Sham Shui</u>	<u>Kowloon</u>	<u>Wong Tai</u>	<u>Kwun</u>	
	<u>Western</u>	<u>Wan Chai</u>	<u>Eastern</u>	<u>Southern</u>	<u>Mong</u>	<u>Po</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Sin</u>	<u>Tong</u>	
2012	0	0	2	0	4(1)	5(1)	4	0	1	
2013	2	1	0	1	2	1	4	2	3	
2014	2	1	0	0	7	5	4	0	3	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Tsuen Wan</u>	<u>Tuen Mun</u>	<u>Yuen Long</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>Tai Po</u>	<u>Sai Kung</u>	<u>Sha Tin</u>	<u>Kwai Tsing</u>	<u>Islands</u>	<u>Total</u>
2012	8 (1)	2	5	2	4	0	3	0	1	41(3)
2013	4	0	3	4	0	0	1	0	2	30(0)
2014	1	3	3	2	3	1	0	6(1)	0	41(1)

These prosecutions basically fall into five categories – (1) about 43% were related to storage/supply/transportation of LPG cylinders; (2) about 21% were related to damage of gas pipes; (3) about 13% were related to the operation of cylinder wagons; (4) about 10% were related to non-registered gas contractors/non-registered gas installers; and (5) the remaining 13% were related to other matters.

The resulting penalties after prosecutions in the past three years are shown in the following table:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Penalty (\$)</u>
2012	500 to 5,000
2013	300 to 15,000
2014	300 to 25,000

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