

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB230

(Question Serial No. 6236)

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 repeated 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: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 299)

Reply:

The numbers of suspected gas incidents investigated over the past three years (from 2013 to 2015) were 339, 332 and 349 respectively, and the numbers of confirmed gas incidents were 245, 238 and 279 respectively.

These gas incidents basically fall into three categories – (1) about 91% were related to gas pipe/cylinder/fitting faults; (2) about 6% were related to careless or improper use of gas fittings; and (3) about 3% 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:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Central &</u>		<u>Eastern</u>	<u>Southern</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>Mong</u>	<u>Po</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Sin</u>	<u>Tong</u>
2013	18	13	40	12	24	9	17	9	18
2014	15	18	36	8	28	12	23	7	24
2015	20	11	43	9	36	13	18	12	16

<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>
2013	7	11	7	5	3	18	12	18	4
2014	5	13	3	2	2	11	16	13	2
2015	5	15	8	2	11	14	24	19	3

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 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 2016 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 (including the number of repeated contraventions shown in bracket) in the past three years by District Council district are shown in the following table:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Central & Western</u>	<u>Wan Chai</u>	<u>Eastern</u>	<u>Southern</u>	<u>Yau Tsim Mong</u>	<u>Sham Shui Po</u>	<u>Kowloon City</u>	<u>Wong Tai Sin</u>	<u>Kwun Tong</u>
2013	2	1	0	1	2	1	4	2	3
2014	2	1	0	0	7	5	4	0	3
2015	2	1	5	1	13(1)	3	4	4(1)	0

<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>
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)
2015	0	3	2	0	1	6(2)	2	2	7	56(4)

These prosecutions basically fall into five categories – (1) about 40% were related to storage/supply/transportation of liquefied petroleum gas cylinders; (2) about 29% were related to damage of gas pipes; (3) about 13% were related to the operation of cylinder wagons; (4) about 8% were related to non-registered gas contractors/non-registered gas installers; and (5) the remaining 10% were related to other matters.

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

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Prosecutions</u>	<u>Maximum Penalty (\$)</u>	<u>Minimum Penalty (\$)</u>
2013	30	15,000	300
2014	41	25,000	300
2015	56	15,000	500

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