

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB039

Question Serial No.

0653

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: In the past five years, how many gas incidents were investigated by the Administration in each year? What were the expenses incurred, manpower involved, follow up actions as well as effectiveness? What were the causes and details of these incidents? Besides, the estimated number of follow-up inspections and quality assurance visits is 2 000 in 2012, which is less than the actual numbers of 2 098 and 2 104 in 2010 and 2011 respectively. What are the reasons behind, and the savings in expenses and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

- (a) The numbers of gas incidents investigated over the past five years (from 2007 to 2011) were 494, 414, 392, 345 and 420 respectively.
- (b) These incidents basically fall into three categories - about 70% were related to gas pipe/cylinder/fitting faults, about 6% were related to careless/improper use of gas fittings, and the remaining 24% were found to be non-gas related.
- (c) Based on the analysis of gas incidents investigated, public education and publicity programmes as well as inspection plans were developed with a view to enhancing gas safety. Enhanced gas safety promotion, e.g. encouragement of gas users to arrange regular safety inspections, will be taken in 2012 with a view to reducing the number of incidents.
- (d) Gas incidents were handled by a team of engineers and inspectors whose responsibilities cover such duties as inspection, investigation, public education and publicity. We do not have the breakdown of manpower or expenditures involved in incident investigation only.
- (e) The estimated number of follow-up inspections and quality assurance visits on gas safety to be conducted in 2012 is slightly reduced to 2 000 as we envisage that the education and publicity works to be launched, in particular those related to promoting regular safety inspections, will help reduce the number of incidents.

Signature: 

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan

Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date: 27 February 2012