

Executive Summary

Lift Incident at Shin Nga House, Fu Shin Estate, Tai Po

The incident at Shin Nga House, Fu Shin Estate, Tai Po on 25 October 2008 was a result of the failure of the counterweight pulley bearing, which caused the dislodgement of all the 8 suspension ropes from the counterweight. Without the balance of the counterweight, the lift car started descending and gaining momentum. The activation of the safety gear at the lift car slowed down the lift car but did not bring the lift car to a stationary position. The load imposed by the descending counterweight and the tangled compensating ropes forced the lift car to travel further downwards overshooting the ground floor level into the lift pit. At this position, seven out of the eight suspension ropes became taut. The resultant force due to the fall of the counterweight and the lift car exceeded the tensile strength of the ropes, and broke these seven ropes.

To prevent recurrence of this incident, EMSD requires Registered Lift Contractors and Registered Lift Engineers shall during the routine maintenance and periodic examination of the lift, strictly follow the manufacturers' recommendations and the technical requirements for the maintenance of lift components as stipulated in the Code of Practices, and ensure that key components are in good working conditions including:-

- a) all drums, sheaves, pulleys and bearings;
- b) overspeed governor, safety gear, guide rail and guide shoe of the lift car and counterweight; and
- c) suspension ropes, compensation ropes/chains and their anchorages.

EMSD has also commenced further investigation under the Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance to find out whether there is any person or party liable under the Ordinance. If there is sufficient evidence showing that there are persons/parties committing an offence, EMSD will initiate prosecution. There may be legal action resulting from this investigation, EMSD therefore will not disclose and comment on the legal liability of the incident.

- End -

5 December 2008