

SCDF 19/ ANNUAL REPORT 20



SCDF
The Life Saving Force

... for a safer Singapore

A close-up photograph of a stethoscope resting on a dark blue uniform. The uniform has several patches: a crest at the top, a 'CIVIL DEFENCE' patch, and a 'PARAMEDIC' patch. The lighting is dramatic, with blue and red highlights.

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COMMISSIONER'S FOREWORD

2019 was another significant and eventful year for Singapore and SCDF.

As our nation celebrated its bicentennial, we celebrated the 150th anniversary of volunteerism in civil defence with a gala event graced by our President, Mdm Halimah Yacob.

Looking back at this meaningful work year, there were several key events, activities and initiatives we have undertaken that moved SCDF closer to our transformation vision of 2025 – *A Nation of Lifesavers*.

Innovation and Technology

Leveraging innovation and technology as a key enabler to provide the Force with a competitive edge to confront challenges and carve out new opportunities is evident in many of SCDF's transformation pursuits. Foremost, we launched the Ops-Tech career track for our officers last year and that was followed by the pursuance of major ops-tech projects like the Integrated Incident Management, Communications, Command and Control System (IM3C), Operational Medical Networks Informatics Integrator (OMNII) and SMART fire station. OMNII is on-schedule for implementation on our EMS fleet and in hospitals from 2nd half of 2020 and the SMART fire station concept will be piloted in phases at the new Punggol Fire Station.

In August 2019, 7 years after SCDF took over the marine firefighting responsibility from the Maritime and Port Authority, Marine Division commissioned its fleet of three new large vessels, which brought our total purpose-built fleet to six vessels to date and we envisioned a steady-state fleet size of ten vessels. Among the new fleet is our flagship 50m Heavy Firefighting Vessel (HFV), which is the world's most powerful firefighting vessel to date.

Hardware aside, skills and competence of our personnel is equally, if not more important. The redevelopment of the Civil Defence Academy's field training area is one of the biggest investments by the Force in recent times for the professional training of our people. The redevelopment project ground-breaking took place in July 2019 and it will be completed in three phases starting from late 2020 to mid 2023.

Community Emergency Preparedness

Last year, we also stepped up our efforts to improve emergency assistance for cardiac arrest victims by expanding the availability of lifesaving equipment in public spaces. The AED-on-Wheels programme, an extension of SCDF's Save-a-Life Initiative, was one such example. Fifty taxis from HDT Singapore Taxi have been equipped with AEDs and taxi drivers are trained in CPR-AED skills for responding to any cardiac arrest emergency while plying the roads.

In WY2019/2020, SCDF sent out alerts via the myResponder app for 3,245 suspected cardiac arrest cases and 1,253 CFRs responded to these incidents. And out of 1,662 rubbish fires alerts that were sent via the same mobile app, 875 CFRs came forward to help extinguish the fires. This is a major step forward towards our vision of Singapore becoming *A Nation of Lifesavers*.

As at March 2020, over 4,900 AEDs had been installed island-wide at the lift lobbies of existing HDB blocks at a distance of approximately one AED for every two blocks. For new HDB blocks, SCDF will continue to work with the various Constituency Offices for the installation. We will also work with various stakeholders to increase the availability of AEDs progressively in condominiums, private estates of landed houses, taxis, private hire vehicles, as well as at various parks, park connectors and nature reserves.



Organisational Excellence

Since April 2019, an organisational change was introduced, grouping staff departments into three strategic clusters namely, Operations & Resilience, Future Technology & Public Safety, and Strategy & Corporate Services.

Through this, functions are better aligned to achieve the strategic objectives and, importantly, we are devoting attention and resources to cultivate future-tech capabilities so that the Force would continue to have strong winds behind our sails as we navigate the challenges ahead.

International Engagement

On the international front, we continued to engage our overseas partners with useful exchanges in scientific knowledge and technological innovation that provided insightful interaction opportunities for many of our officers.

This included conducting the 5th ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM), and organising the inaugural First Responders Safety & Performance Symposium (FRSPS) in tandem with our Ready Week programme which featured the flagship Singapore-Global Firefighters & Paramedics Challenge (SGFPC 2019), SCDF Parade and Lifesavers' Connect exhibition.

These events go a long way in enhancing capabilities and outcomes of first responders' safety and performance and hence, contributing to a more sustainable development to operate effectively in this ever-changing humanitarian landscape.

On strengthening bilateral cooperation with our overseas counterpart organisations, last year SCDF and Malta Civil Protection Department signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) and SCDF also renewed two LOIs with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (Western Australia), and Vietnam Fire and Rescue Police Department.

Looking Ahead At 2020

2020 started as a year unlike any we have known before and the COVID-19 pandemic is still unfolding as this book goes to print.

As an emergency response organisation, SCDF is operating at its highest state of business continuity measures to ensure that its provision of emergency services to the population remains uninterrupted. This includes full segregation of teams at workplaces, staff working from home, and our EMS crew responding to all calls in full personal protective equipment (PPE).

On top of that, SCDF has also stepped forward to do our part and more as One Public Service for our nation. For instance, we supported temperature screening of arriving passengers at Changi Airport, conducted swab tests on quarantined persons, and are presently operating a Government Quarantine Facility and a temporary dormitory for foreign workers.

While the pandemic will be protracted and tough, demanding every member of the Force to make considerable sacrifices, we are certain the experience from managing the crisis will enable us to emerge even closer, stronger, and resilient as an organisation. There have also been extraordinary moments to remind us why we remain steadfastly committed to the mission of life saving.

As we navigate through the crisis, we continue to keep our best focus on our 2025 transformation vision. Hence, there are several initiatives and undertakings we can look forward to in 2020.

Foremost, EXCEL (Emergency Responders' Fitness Conditioning & Enhancement Lab) and the virtual learning centre at the Civil Defence Academy will be ready by end of this year. The EXCEL will also house the Strength and Condition, Rehabilitation in a Virtual Environment (STRiVE) facility, which uses science and technology to condition emergency responders, developing the fullest potential of every individual. Such modern and multimodal facilities shall be the start of an exciting training experience for all service personnel.

Complementing the EXCEL and launching this year too, is an all-new Responders' Performance Vehicle designed to support the recovery and rehabilitation of fatigued personnel during fire & rescue operations.

Preparation for the complete replacement of our firefighting PPE will also be undertaken. The new suits will be in lighter shades for improved visibility of our crew at incidents and overall, greater comfort and protection.

Phase 2 of the CDA redevelopment project will also commence this year. Two major areas of this phase are the construction of the National EMS Training Centre as well as a slew of simulators for the training of our emergency responders in a variety of scenarios such as underground road and train tunnels.

On the international front, this and the coming years look certain to be eventful for SCDF as the Force assumes leadership roles in ASEAN and globally. This year, SCDF is leading the INSARAG Asia-Pacific region as the Chair, and in 2021, SCDF will assume a similar role for the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management. Through these leadership roles and other associated initiatives, SCDF aims to contribute meaningfully to disaster preparedness of the region and beyond.

In almost all our endeavours, the support of our partners such as Home Team Departments, Related Agencies and the community is a key success factor. Hence, we remain immensely grateful for their support and encouragement. Thank you for helping the SCDF to serve the community better and I wish you good health and optimism.

Commissioner Eric Yap
May 2020

Commissioner's
Foreward

**Senior
Management**

Division
Commanders

SCDF
Establishments

Organisation
Structure

Operational
Excellence

Major Incidents
in 2019

Public
Protection

Community
Preparedness

Organisational
Excellence

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

COMR ERIC YAP
COMMISSIONER SCDF





SAC ANWAR BIN ABDULLAH

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
(OPERATIONS & RESILIENCE)

DC CHONG HOI HUNG

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (STRATEGY
& CORPORATE SERVICES)

SAC TEONG HOW HWA

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (FUTURE
TECHNOLOGY & PUBLIC SAFETY)

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

SENIOR MANAGEMENT



MX CHIN LAI FONG
DIRECTOR
PLANNING AND
ORGANISATION DEPARTMENT



AC FRANCIS NG
DIRECTOR
TRAINING DEPARTMENT



SAC LIAN WEE TECK
DIRECTOR
FIRE SAFETY DEPARTMENT



AC YONG MENG WAH
DIRECTOR
EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES DEPARTMENT



AC DANIEL SEET
DIRECTOR
OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT



MX KRISTY NG
DIRECTOR
HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT



AC YAZID BIN ABDULLAH
DIRECTOR
VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP DEPARTMENT



AC ABDUL RAZAK BIN ABDUL RAHEEM
DIRECTOR
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

SENIOR MANAGEMENT



AC LEE YAM MING
DIRECTOR
RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT OFFICE



COL LEOW CHEW HONG
DIRECTOR
TRANSFORMATION &
FUTURE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT



MX WANG HEH
DIRECTOR
FINANCE DEPARTMENT



COL WESLEY HO
DIRECTOR
LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT



COL NG CHEE KIANG
DIRECTOR
SERVICE EXCELLENCE DEPARTMENT



COL (DR) SHALINI ARULANANDAM
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER



COL MICHAEL CHUA
DIRECTOR
HAZMAT DEPARTMENT

DIVISION COMMANDERS



AC DEREK TAN
COMMANDER
SCDF MARINE DIVISION



COL LIM BOON HWEE
COMMANDER
1ST SCDF DIVISION



AC KADIR MAIDEEN BIN MOHAMED
COMMANDER CORPORATE SERVICES HUB
(WEST)



COL CHEW KENG TOK
COMMANDER
2ND SCDF DIVISION



COL ALAN CHOW
DIRECTOR
CIVIL DEFENCE ACADEMY



COL LIM HAN CHEE
COMMANDER
3RD SCDF DIVISION



COL ALAN TOH
COMMANDER CORPORATE SERVICES HUB
(EAST)



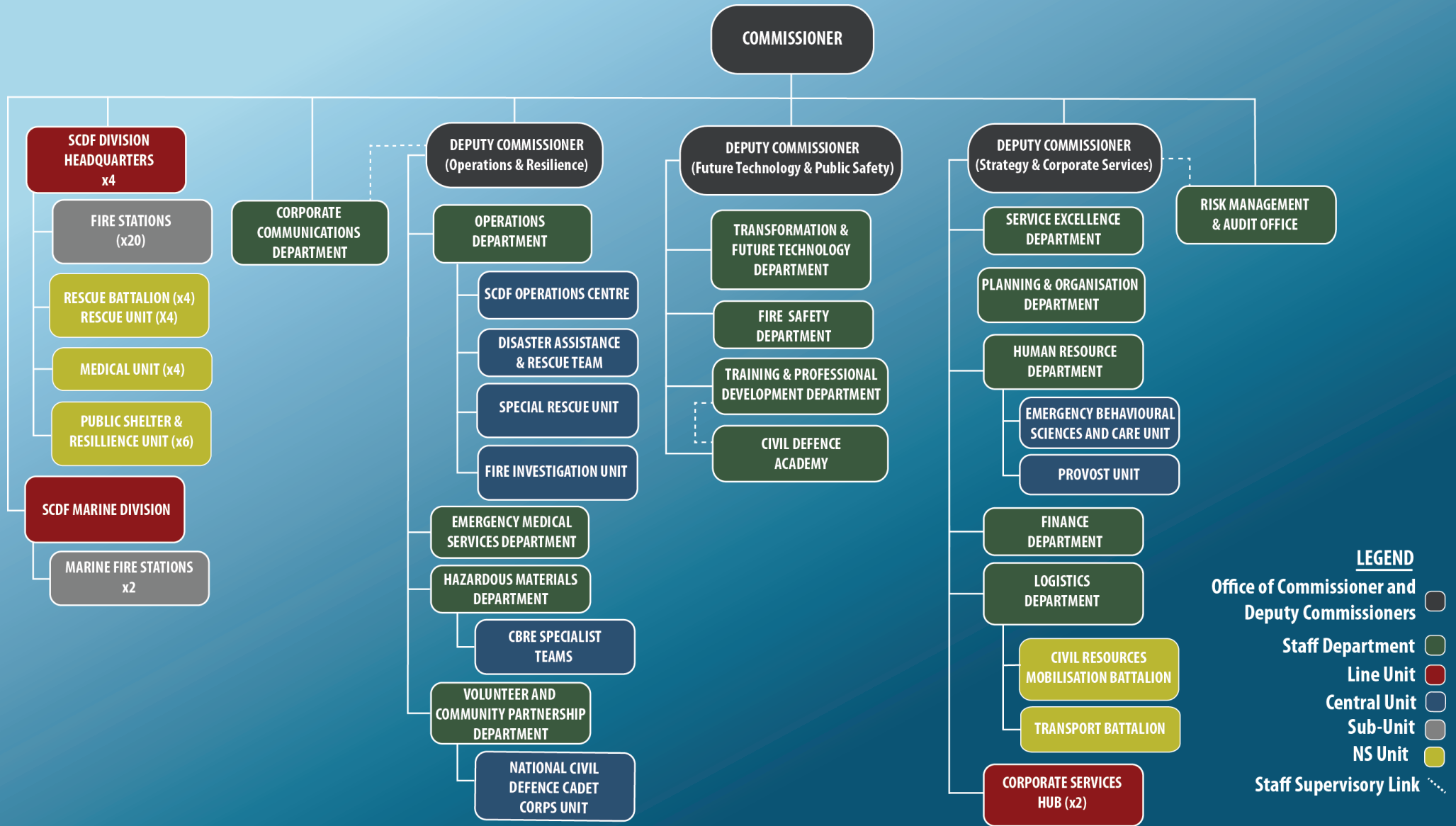
COL ANTHONY TOH
COMMANDER
4TH SCDF DIVISION

SCDF ESTABLISHMENTS



LEGEND

- ▲ TRAINING FACILITY
- FIRE POST
- FIRE STATION
- ★ DIVISION HEADQUARTERS
- ⚓ MARINE FIRE STATION
- ★ SCDF HEADQUARTER



LEGEND

- Office of Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners
- Staff Department
- Line Unit
- Central Unit
- Sub-Unit
- NS Unit
- Staff Supervisory Link

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE



Punggol Fire Station and Neighbourhood Police Centre Ground Breaking Ceremony

On 11 March 2019, a Ground Breaking Ceremony was held for Punggol Fire Station and Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC). The event was graced by Mr Ng Chee Meng, Minister, Prime Minister's Office and Ms Sun Xueling, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of National Development.

Punggol Fire Station will be SCDF's pioneer SMART fire station with a test bed of analytics dashboard and a slew of high-tech infrastructure solutions such as biometrics and CCTV analytics to regulate security and access into the premises.

"As Punggol continues to develop, there will inevitably be increased need for policing and emergency services. Residents in Punggol can look forward to more opportunities to work hand in hand with the Home Team to keep Punggol safe and secure. Let's work together and make SGSecure!" said Ms Sun Xueling.

The construction of this 5-storey Home Team establishment, situated along Punggol Central Road, is scheduled to be completed by end 2020.





EMS Tiered Response – Implementation of Phase 2

In April 2019, SCDF implemented Phase 2 of the Emergency Medical services (EMS) Tiered Response Framework. It entailed dispatching either a Fire Bike, Light Fire Attack Vehicle, or a Pump Ladder, to complement the ambulance response, for swifter and enhanced intervention in serious medical emergencies. Fire & Rescue Specialists are cross-trained as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to support this initiative.



Marine Vessels' Commissioning

On 20 August 2019, SCDF held the Marine Vessels' Commissioning Ceremony at the Marina at Keppel Bay. The ceremony was witnessed by Mr K Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, and his wife, Dr Seetha Subbiah, who commissioned SCDF's three new marine firefighting vessels - the Heavy Fire Vessel (HFV), the Heavy Rescue Vessel (HRV) and the Marine Rescue Vessel (MRV).



Heavy Fire Vessel

(HFV), Red Sailfish, is the largest and most powerful firefighting vessel in the world today. Equipped with 12 water and foam monitors providing 360° firefighting coverage, the HFV has a discharge rate of up to 240,000 litres of seawater per minute. Its Dynamic Positioning System also allows the HFV to automatically maintain its position in the water, which helps to stabilise the vessel for effective firefighting operations.

Heavy Rescue Vessel

(HRV), Red Manta, is SCDF's first Catamaran (twin-hulled) vessel. It has a carrying capacity of 300 passengers, a medical treatment room and decontamination chambers.





Marine Rescue Vessel

(MRV), Red Dolphin, is equipped with a Chemical, Biological and Radiological (CBR) filtration system, decontamination cubicles and positive pressured cabins. It is capable of responding to marine CBR incidents, as well as conducting firefighting and rescue operations.



Opening of Kallang Fire Station

On 9 October 2019, Mr K Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, officially opened Kallang Fire Station, SCDF's 22nd fire station. Located at 2 Guillemard Close, Kallang Fire Station provides faster emergency response to the existing and upcoming commercial, industrial and residential developments and infrastructures in the Kallang area, including the Singapore Sports Hub.

A first of its kind for SCDF, Kallang Fire Station houses a Home Team Joint Facility (HTJF). Its strategic location is ideal to function as a command and staging area for Home Team specialist units to mount joint operations and standbys for major events. Kallang Fire Station will host SCDF's interim Lifesavers' Connect Hub while the flagship Hub is under construction at Hill Street. It will serve as a place for volunteers and Community First Responders to meet, network and learn.



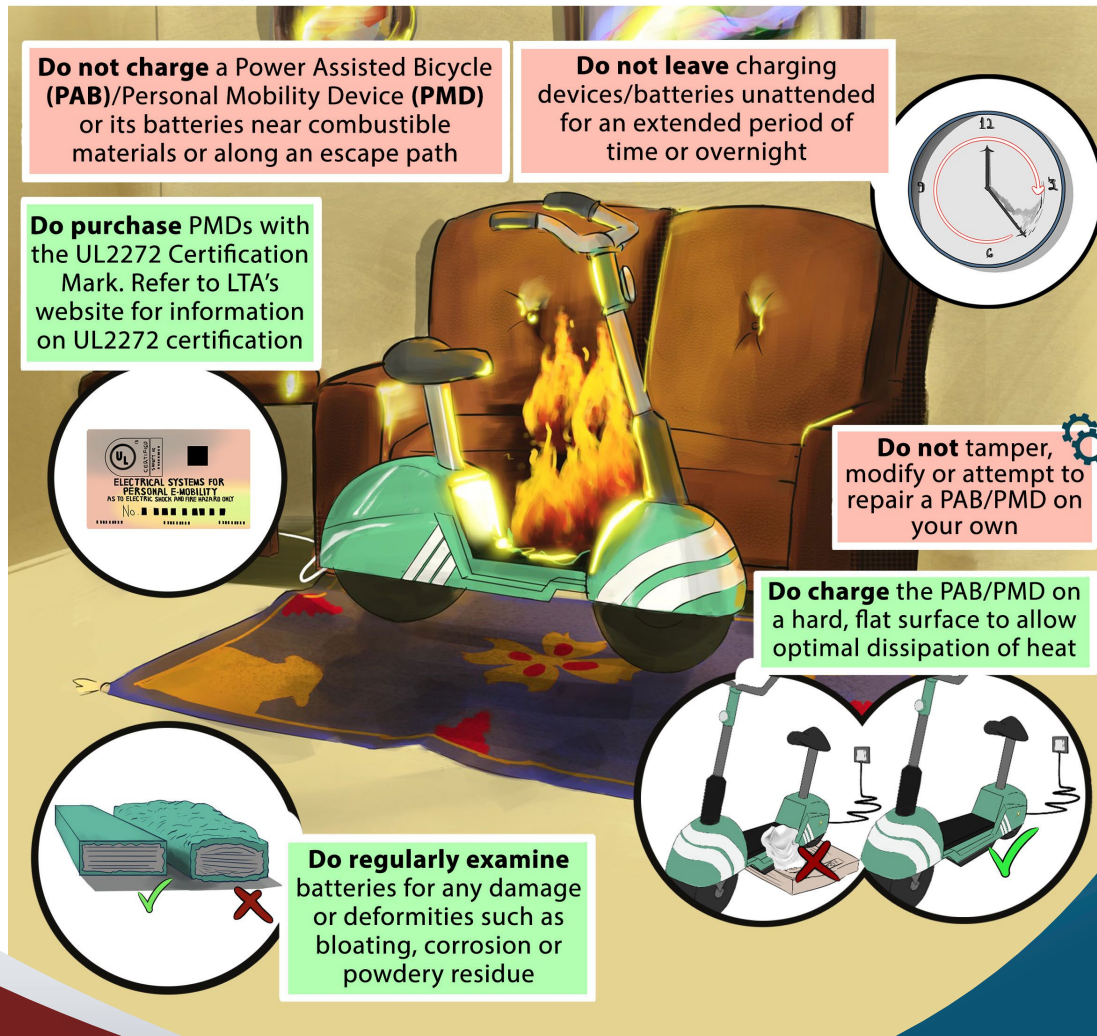
Dynamic Resource Optimisation (DRO)

Since 2017, the Dynamic Resource Optimisation (DRO) system has revolutionised the deployment of SCDF ambulances to improve response times. Under Phase 1 of DRO, SCDF ambulances were deployed at locations nearer to places with higher call loads. These locations included community clubs, neighbourhood police posts, and other public amenities. Arising from this, the response time of the SCDF Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has improved by 3.7%.

With the initial success, SCDF is working with the Singapore Management University through Home Team Science & Technology Agency for a Phase 2 development.



Fire Safety Tips for PMDs and PABs



Residential Unit Fire @ Blk 293 Bukit Batok St 21

On 18 July 2019, SCDF responded to a residential unit fire involving three Personal Mobility Devices (PMD) in the living room. The unit sustained varying degrees of heat, smoke and water damage.

The fire resulted in two casualties – one suffered smoke inhalation injuries, and the death of a 41 year-old man. This is the first fatality from a fire caused by a PMD.



Residential Unit Fire @ Blk 210A Bukit Batok St 21

On 1 November 2019, at about 4.30am, SCDF responded to a residential unit fire at Blk 210A Bukit Batok Street 21. A Combined Platform Ladder (CPL60), along with rescuers from SCDF's Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team were deployed to conduct aerial rescue of trapped victims found on the ledge outside the kitchen's window. The victims were brought down to the ground floor and attended to by SCDF paramedics. A total of three casualties were conveyed to Singapore General Hospital for burn injuries and smoke inhalation.



Shophouse fire at Geylang Lor 14

On 19 June 2019, SCDF responded to a shophouse fire at Geylang Lorong 14. 12 emergency vehicles and about 70 firefighters were deployed to the incident. The operations lasted for 3 hours. At the height of the operations, three handheld jets and an aerial monitor were utilised to mitigate the fire.



LPG facility fire @ Jalan Buroh

On 21 June 2019, at about 5.10pm, SCDF responded to a massive fire at Jalan Buroh. The fire involved highly flammable LPG cylinders and refilling and storage facilities about the size of two football fields. 35 emergency vehicles and about 120 firefighters were deployed. Firefighters faced intense heat amidst exploding LPG cylinders while preventing the fire from spreading to larger LPG storage tanks nearby.

Despite the challenges, firefighters persevered and fought the blaze into the night. This is the largest LPG fire in Singapore's history.

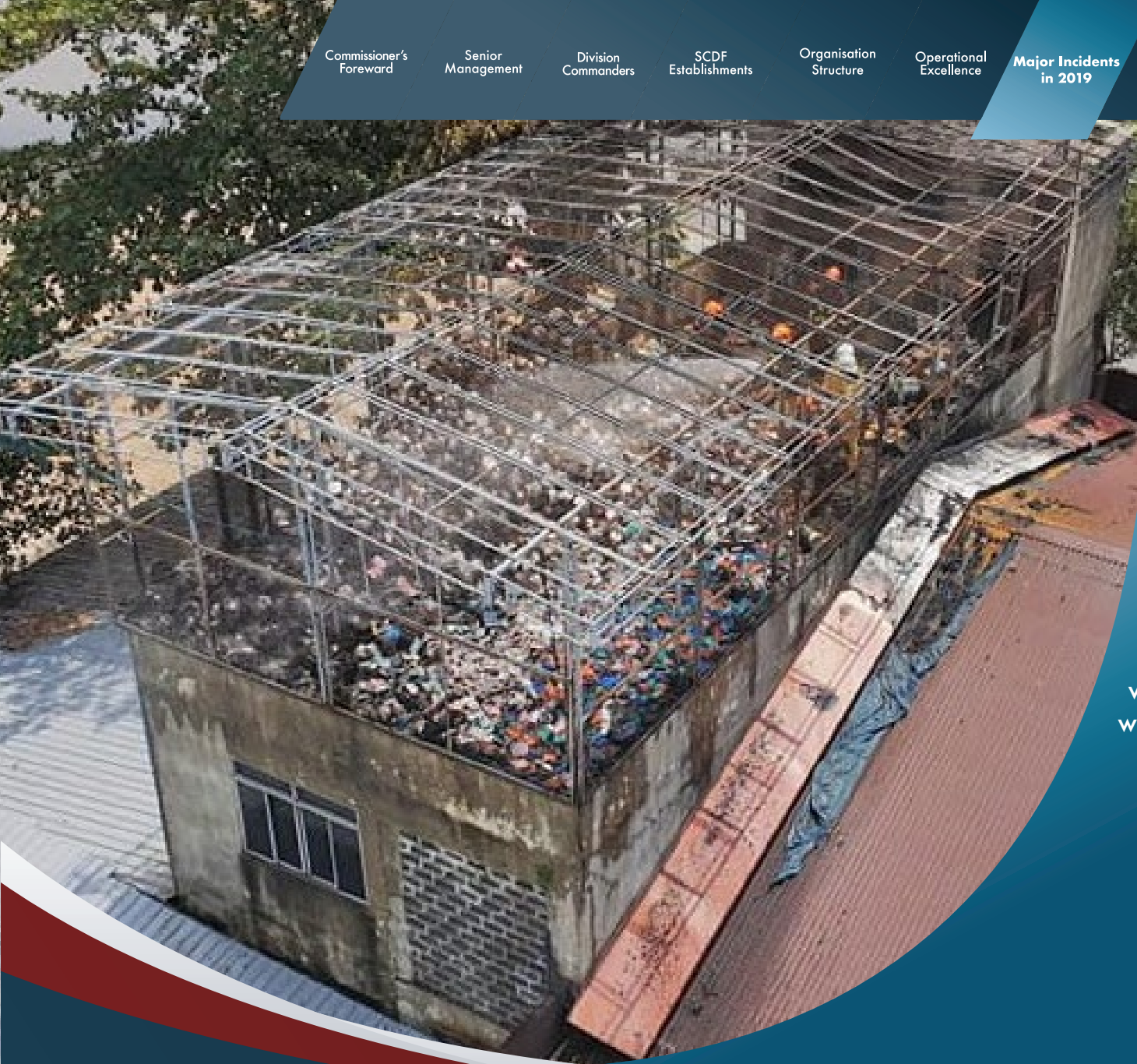




HDB Shop Fire at Blk 720 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 6

On 5 July 2019, SCDF responded to an HDB shop fire at Blk 720 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 6 at about 3.45pm. The raging fire engulfed four shops on the ground floor, each with an adjoining second-floor unit. 19 emergency vehicles and about 60 firefighters were deployed to the scene.

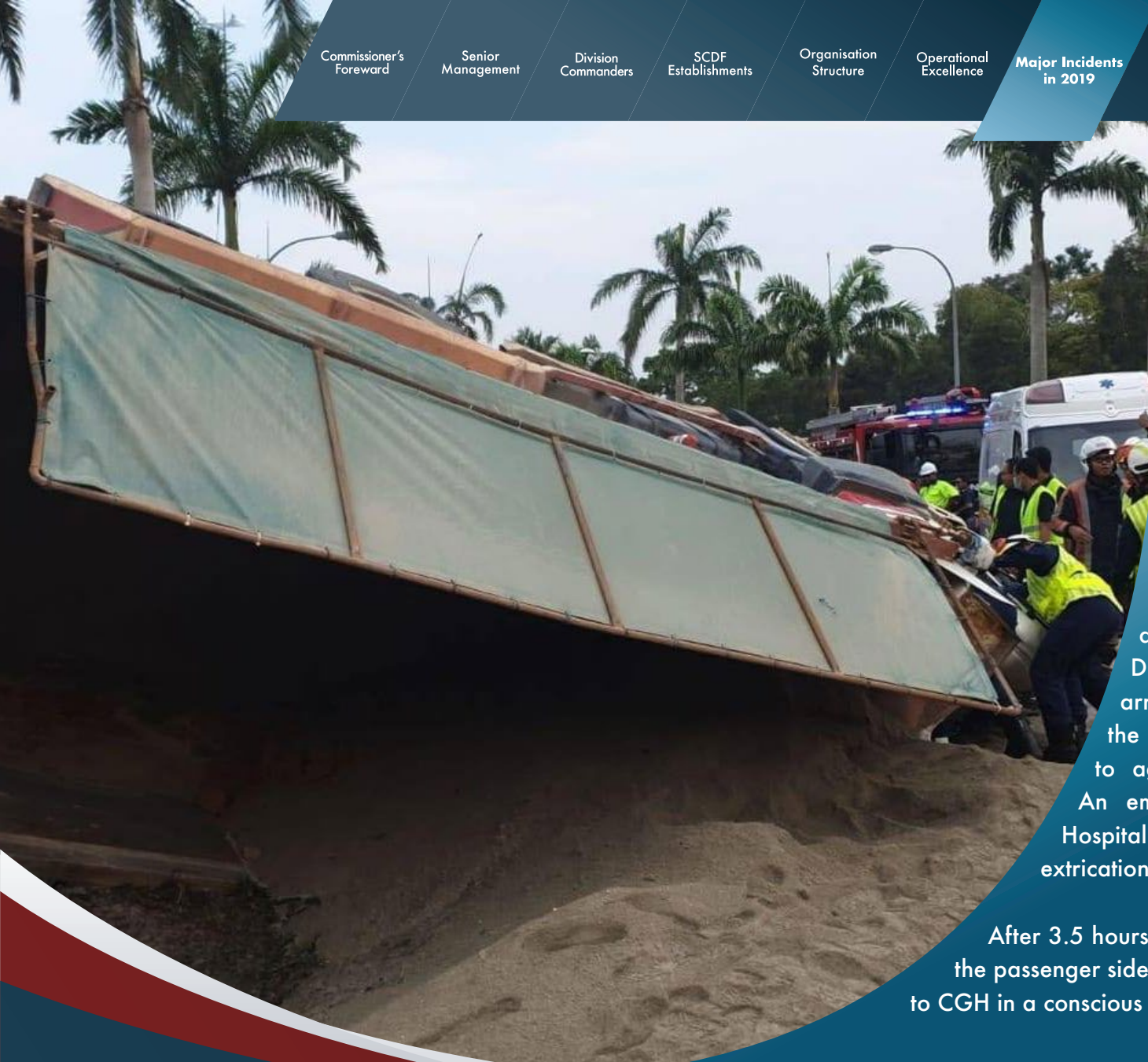




Warehouse fire @ Kim Chuan Drive

On 18 November 2019, at about 11.30am, SCDF responded to a fire at a storage warehouse at Kim Chuan Drive. The fire involved kitchenware and other household items that had been stored at the rooftop of the warehouse. 40 firefighters and 14 emergency vehicles were deployed, and three water jets were used to bring the massive fire under control.





Tipper Truck Road Traffic Accident Along East Coast Parkway

SCDF received a call for assistance along ECP after the Tanah Merah Coast Road exit on 31 Oct 2019, involving a tipper truck found lying on its side with its load of sand spilled and the front cabin crushed inwards.

Personnel from Changi and Kallang Fire Stations worked to clear the debris and gained access to the trapped driver prior to Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team's (DART) arrival. A truck-mounted crane was used to stabilise the tipper truck to minimise movement, so as not to aggravate the condition of the trapped driver. An emergency medical team from Changi General Hospital (CGH) attended to the driver while the extrication was in progress.

After 3.5 hours, DART personnel extricated the driver through the passenger side of the cabin. The driver was conveyed to CGH in a conscious state.



Road Traffic Accident at Changi Airport Terminal 2

SCDF received a call for assistance at Changi Airport Terminal 2 Bus Interchange on 2 Feb 2020, involving a passenger bus found impacted against a concrete pillar. The driver was trapped in his seat. Multiple passengers were injured as a result of the impact.

Emergency Medical Services crew from Paya Lebar, Changi and Tampines Fire Stations, as well as Airport Emergency Service (AES) assessed and stabilised the passengers. SCDF then conveyed the passengers to Changi General Hospital (CGH). Simultaneously, Changi Fire Station and AES crew worked to gain access to the driver prior to DART's arrival for assistance with the extrication. After 45 minutes, the driver was successfully extricated and conveyed to CGH in a conscious state.



SCDF IN THE NEWS

Jurong LPG fire: Worker undergoes surgery, 2nd injured man discharged

Ng Huiwen
and Tan Tam Mei

A Chinese national injured in the massive fire in Jalan Buroh on Friday remains in stable condition in hospital while the other injured worker, also a Chinese national, was discharged yesterday morning, the Migrant Workers' Centre (MWC) said.

The non-governmental organisation said in a Facebook post that the worker who remained in hospital "should get better with treatment and healing time".

MWC also confirmed that a third Chinese national died in the fire at the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) facility at 43 Jalan Buroh in Jurong which is occupied by Summit Gas Systems, a subsidiary of Union Energy Corporation.

The Sunday Times understands that the worker who died was Mr

Wei Xiao Yong, 40.

The fire spread rapidly across the sprawling facility which occupies a site the size of two football fields. It raged for over two hours and loud explosions were heard as far as 4km away.

Around 120 Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) firefighters were dispatched to fight the blaze, the largest LPG fire it ever had to deal with.

It is believed that the worker who was discharged yesterday morning suffered superficial injuries while his colleague, who was treated for burns, underwent surgery yesterday.

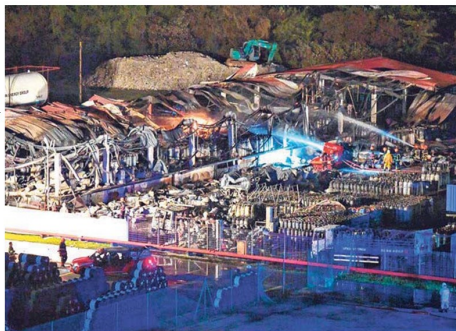
He is currently in a high dependency ward, a Singapore General Hospital spokesman said. MWC said in its Facebook post that it is working with the company to ensure the welfare of the workers.

It said the company would help in underwriting the costs of medical treatment as well as in the filing of necessary reports and claims for compensation thereafter.

An MWC officer spoke to the injured worker who was discharged yesterday morning.

The company is also helping with funeral arrangements and sites for the dead worker, as well as assist his next of kin with the repatriation of his remains.

The Sunday Times understands that efforts are being made to contact Mr Wei's next of kin in China. "We would like to reassure concerned Singaporeans and migrant workers that the affected workers are and will continue to be well taken care of, even as investigations into the cause of the fire are ongoing," MWC said.



The blaze at a Jurong liquefied petroleum gas facility that killed a worker was the largest LPG fire that the SCDF ever had to deal with. It raged for over two hours on Friday and explosions were heard as far as 4km away. ST PHOTO: NG SOR LUAN

nghuiwen@sph.com.sg
tanmei@sph.com.sg

Source: The Straits Times, 23 June 2019.

Firefighters battle massive blaze at Tuas industrial site for 6 hours

Chenist Yong

Firefighters took six hours to put out a massive blaze that engulfed a building containing motor oil and solvents in Tuas early yesterday.

The fire affected an area about the size of a football field. The flames were also rapidly spreading along nearby drains and the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) hoses were reported to have been in use.

The SCDF said it was alerted to the incident at 88 Tuas Crescent - where United Star Petroleum is located - at 10pm and deployed 34 emergency vehicles and six fire-fighters.

Firefighters arrived on the scene within four minutes of the call, an SCDF officer told reporters after their work was under control.

United Star collects, stores and recycles toxic industrial waste. In Facebook posts, SCDF said during operations, there were "multiple explosions from metal drums that stored flammable industrial liquids".

An SCDF officer later said a "two-pronged attack" was mounted to stop the "runaway fire" spread. One team used high-pressure water jets to suppress the blaze in the building, so that the surrounding structures would not be affected.

Due to the intensity of the fire, firefighters first used so water jets and then unmanned firefighting machines to douse the flames, before SCDF personnel donned breathing apparatus and face masks to enter the premises.

An unmanned aerial vehicle was flown over the site to measure the situation from the air, while teams were used to cover the surface of the burning liquid.

When asked by reporters whether the toxic industrial waste that United Star stored on site could lead to pollution, the SCDF officer said SCDF has been monitoring the site to ensure that there are no leaks. He said the site is equipped with a rainwater collection system to collect rainwater and prevent it from being discharged into the sea.



Firefighters used water jets to douse the flames. SCDF deployed 34 emergency vehicles and 130 firefighters. A lot of 10 water jets and three unmanned firefighting machines were used to put out the fire. PHOTO: LIAMNE ZAKARIA

as the drains near the site of the fire discharge water into the sea to the west. SCDF is investigating the cause of the fire.

National water agency PUB told The Straits Times that water quality in reservoirs has not been affected.

Each PUB and NEA are continuing to monitor the situation, including the water quality of the discharge into the sea.

chenist@sph.com.sg

Source: The Straits Times, 12 December 2019.

A trial by fire for SCDF at massive LPG facility blaze

Firefighters braved flying gas cylinders, high heat and other dangers in putting out inferno

Tan Tam Mei

It was the first fire for Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) officers

Muhammad Faisal Rozali, but as his team approached the blaze and saw 30m-high thick black smoke and flaming cylinders whizzing through the air, his excitement gave way to fear.

"I knew that I might have to fight a big fire, but I didn't think that one would come so soon," said the 20-year-old full-time national serviceman who has been with Jurong Island Fire Station for two months.

The blaze at a Jalan Buroh liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) facility last Friday evening was the biggest LPG fire that the force has battled.

One person was killed and two others injured in the blaze. Lance Corporal Faisal and his colleagues, who were among the first responders, sprang into action and searched the area for fire hydrants to help fight the fire.

The massive fire broke out around 9pm at the bottling and storage facility of Summit Gas Systems, a subsidiary of Union Energy Corporation, which distributes LPG chambers to homes and businesses.

Located on the west hundreds of highly flammable LPG cylinders, and at that time, there was also a deafening hiss in the air, indicating that some of the cylinders were leaking flammable gas.

The blaze spread rapidly across the facility, about the size of two football fields, in the Jurong industrial zone.

Recounting the incident, six SCDF officers who fought last Friday's blaze yesterday shared their experience on the ground.

Rota commander Tan Chun Hui, 26, from Jurong Fire Station, said of the terrifying inferno: "I have never seen anything like it before, and I am pretty sure none of the others has either."

She said an immediate concern was to ensure that the numerous cylinders shooting out of the compound did not hit them or ignite neighbouring premises, which included a nearby petrol station.

"Taking orders from Lieutenant Tan, Second Rotation Officer Syed Yaqub and Nasserudin set up water jets to prevent the spread of the blaze. He said they could feel the heat of the blaze through their protective gear, and there were times when they had to pull back as the fire roared towards them.

NCO Syed Yaqub, 29, who has been with the force for a decade, said: "Honestly, I was scared, but we had to put out our fears."

Thirty-five emergency vehicles were deployed and, at the height of the operations, seven water jets, including an unmanned firefighting machine, were used to contain the fire that subsided after about two



Among the firefighters who tackled last Friday's blaze at a Jalan Buroh liquefied petroleum gas facility were (from left) Corporal Thio Zhen Yang, Lance Corporal Muhammad Faisal Rozali, Sergeant Ahmad Kafee Asman, Second Rotation Officer Syed Yaqub Syed Nasserudin, Captain Dinesh Veluchamy, Major Navin Bakrishnan, Lieutenant Tan Chun Hui, Lieutenant (Volunteer) Lin Jeevee and Staff Sergeant Farah Hadeed. PHOTO: CHONG JIA LUAN



Firefighters trying to put out the blaze last Friday in Jalan Buroh, the biggest liquefied petroleum gas fire the SCDF has battled. PHOTO: SHIN MUN GAILY NEWS

hours. Eventually, the oil was made safe by firefighters to enter the premises, and the fire, which had burned for six hours, was extinguished.

Another concern was to prevent the flames from spreading to two

nearby LPG bulk tanks at the back of the facility, said Captain Dinesh Veluchamy, 36.

The commander of Jurong Fire Station said the heat from the flames could have caused the tanks to imp-

plode and release flammable contents. This would have resulted in a massive vapour explosion that could have spread to the neighbouring premises and beyond.

Commander of Bukit Batok Fire Station Navin Bakrishnan, 37, said this would have been catastrophic.

He added that knowledge of the premises from an exercise he did with the company last year helped him make some crucial decisions.

Major Navin knew the site was labelled as a high-rise installation, with gas mains and pipes running through one of the buildings there.

Taking a calculated risk, he decided to enter the area with two of his men to manually turn off the valves located next to the building and cut off the gas supply.

Major Navin said the fire was dangerous even for a veteran like him but the incident, which brought together about 120 officers from at least four stations, was a reminder that they are "pounded by fire".

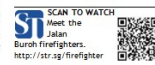
The commander with those beside you gives you the courage to be together," he said.

Two workers, aged 39 and 45, both Chinese nationals, were taken to hospital. One was discharged last Saturday, while the other remains hospitalised. The employee who died was a 43-year-old Chinese national. The authorities are arranging for his family to come to Singapore.

On Monday, Union Gas Holdings said in a Singapore Exchange filing that operations at the Summit facility, which is its supplier, have been suspended.

The cause of the fire is being investigated.

tanmei@sph.com.sg



Source: The Straits Times, 26 June 2019.



SCDF IN THE NEWS

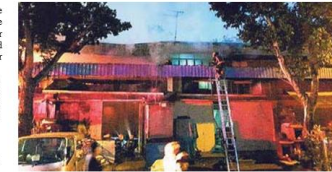
DPM briefed on SCDF procedures



Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat and Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Home Affairs and National Development Sun Xueling being briefed on decontamination procedures by Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) Lieutenant-Colonel Janice Oh (left) at Kallang Fire Station yesterday. With them was SCDF Commissioner Eric Yap. Mr Heng, who is also Finance Minister, spoke to paramedics and other front-line officers, and Team Singapore athletes who had come to show their support. He also recorded a video message pointing to support measures for families and firms in tomorrow's Budget. ST PHOTO: GAVIN FOO

Source: *The Straits Times*, 17 February 2020.

The Singapore Civil Defence Force used four handheld jets and an aerial water monitor to bring the fire at a warehouse in Eunos under control early yesterday.



40 firefighters put out Eunos blaze

The Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) deployed 40 firefighters and 12 emergency vehicles to put out a fire in Eunos yesterday morning. It said the fire involved the contents of a warehouse at 1081 Eunos Avenue 7.

Pictures taken after the fire was doused showed firefighters conducting damping-down operations to prevent any rekindling of the flames from the hot surfaces. "At the height of the operations, four handheld jets and an aerial wa-

ter monitor were used to bring the fire under control. "The fire was extinguished at about 8am, and there were no reported injuries," said the SCDF, which is investigating the cause of the blaze. Malavika Menon

Source: *The Straits Times*, 15 March 2020.



The Singapore Civil Defence Force said in a Facebook post that dry vegetation and windy conditions in Lorong Semangka near Choa Chu Kang complicated firefighting efforts. Seven water jets were used to contain the blaze, while excavators were employed to create gaps between flammable materials to stop the fire from spreading. PHOTO: SCDF/FACEBOOK

SCDF battles raging fire near Choa Chu Kang

A fire the size of a football field and about four storeys high broke out yesterday, leading to an operation that lasted more than 10 hours as of 8pm last night and involving about 50 firefighters and six Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) emergency vehicles. The blaze at L31, Lorong Se-

mangka near Choa Chu Kang, which began at 1.30pm, raged in an open plot and is believed to have been caused by wood waste left in the area by a company, an SCDF spokesman told *The Straits Times* without naming the company. The SCDF said in a Facebook post that dry vegetation and windy con-

ditions complicated firefighting efforts. Seven water jets were used to contain the blaze, while excavators were employed to create gaps between flammable materials to stop the fire from spreading. The police said no injuries were reported. On Wednesday, the SCDF said it responded to more fires last year

than the year before, with those categorized as vegetation fires increasing by more than half. There were 283 cases of such fires last year, largely due to the sustained dry weather from January to March, and from July to September, it said. Clement Yong

Source: *The Straits Times*, 15 February 2020.





PUBLIC PROTECTION



Amendments to the Fire Safety Act

SCDF amended the Fire Safety Act in 2019 to strengthen fire safety provisions, enhance regulatory enforcement powers, and optimise the use of SCDF's resources to focus on higher risk areas.

Key amendments included: (1) Increasing the penalties for serious offences committed by building owners or occupiers and Qualified Persons. (2) Holding parties responsible for the use of non-compliant fire safety products/materials.

SCDF also regulates fire safety products and materials that may pose higher fire risks or are crucial for a building's fire safety. This amendment aims to empower SCDF to prevent and stop the use of non-compliant regulated fire safety products by taking action against any party in the supply chain.

Amendments to the Criminal Law Act

The Criminal Law Reform Act (CLRA) was passed in parliament on 6 May 2019 and took effect on 1 January 2020. The new Act enables the SCDF to take firmer action against those who do not properly dispose of lighted materials, such as cigarette butts, and in doing so cause or substantially contribute to the risk of fires.

Offenders may face imprisonment of up to seven years, and/or a fine.

A person, unless proven otherwise, will be presumed to have substantially contributed to the risk of causing the fire if it occurs within 60 minutes at or in the vicinity of the place where that person threw, placed, dropped or deposited anything likely to cause a fire.



COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS



Renewal of SCDF's partnership with Mercy Relief and Singapore Red Cross

On 8 May 2019, SCDF signed a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) with two non-governmental organisations, Mercy Relief (MR) and Singapore Red Cross (SRC), at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). Mr Amrin Amin, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Health, witnessed the MOI signing, which marked the renewal of SCDF's existing partnership with MR and SRC.

This partnership allows SCDF and its partners to provide opportunities for the Civil Defence (CD) Lionhearters to be involved in humanitarian relief work overseas. It also enables SCDF to provide opportunities for Singaporean youths to contribute to post-disaster relief efforts locally and internationally.





Civil Defence (CD) Lionhearter Forum 2019

On 8 May 2019, the SCDF organised the CD Lionhearter Forum at the Singapore University of Technology and Design to highlight its partnership with the community of youthful volunteers.

The forum, entitled 'Together a Nation of Lifesavers', was conducted in the form of a talk show. The panel members included LTC (Dr) Shalini Arulanandam, SCDF's Chief Medical Officer, and four prolific Community First Responders.





Gala Dinner in commemoration of 150 years of Civil Defence Volunteerism

SCDF held its first Civil Defence (CD) Volunteer Gala Nite on 19 July 2019 to honour and acknowledge the contributions of CD volunteers and celebrate the 150th year of civil defence volunteerism in Singapore.

The gala dinner, held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, was graced by Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore. More than 400 SCDF volunteers and Community First Responders (CFRs) attended this milestone event in SCDF's history. It was a special tribute to SCDF's volunteer schemes and members of the public who have stepped forward as CFRs to help others during emergencies.



Expansion of the Save-a-Life initiative

SCDF launched the HDT Singapore Taxi – Singapore Heart Foundation (SHF) AED-on-Wheels programme in a ceremony on 18 November 2019. The event was held at Kampung Admiralty Community Plaza, and was officiated by Mr Amrin Amin, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Health.

The AED-on-Wheels programme is an extension of SCDF's Save-a-Life initiative. 50 taxis from HDT Singapore Taxi were equipped with AEDs. These taxi drivers have been trained in CPR-AED skills and would be alerted by the SCDF myResponder mobile app to cardiac arrest emergencies while plying the roads, prior to SCDF's arrival.





National Civil Defence Cadet Corps Affirmation Day

On 13 July 2019, close to 600 Secondary One students were sworn in as National Civil Defence Cadet Corps (NCDCC) cadets at the NCDCC Affirmation Day 2019 held at Heartbeat@Bedok. In an effort to champion community first response, the NCDCC held its Affirmation Day in a public place for the second consecutive year.

The event was graced by Mr Amrin Amin, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Health, and witnessed by the proud parents of the cadets. Building on the theme for this year's NCDCC Day, which is 'Serving with Passion', Mr Amrin encouraged all cadets to seize every opportunity to develop themselves and become committed youth leaders, and to serve beyond school or at home, but in the larger community.





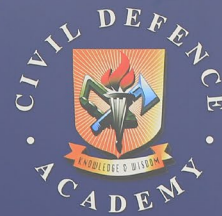
**ORGANISATIONAL
EXCELLENCE**



CIVIL DEFENCE ACADEMY SINGAPORE

FTA Redevelopment Ground Breaking Ceremony

30 JULY 2019



Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Redevelopment of the Civil Defence Academy's Field Training Area

On 30 July 2019, COMR Eric Yap, Commissioner of SCDF, officiated a ground breaking ceremony for the redevelopment of the Civil Defence Academy's Field Training Area (FTA).

Since the opening of the Civil Defence Academy (CDA) in 1999, the training simulators and other facilities in the FTA had served more than 38,000 local participants annually and more than 8,000 international participants across 137 countries. After more than 20 years of continuous operations, CDA's FTA will be undergoing a comprehensive modernization to cater to both the present and future training needs of the SCDF.

The redeveloped FTA will house new facilities and training simulators that will depict challenges posed by the latest infrastructural developments in the contemporary operating environment. These include the National Emergency Medical Services Training Centre (NETC), the Emergency Responders' Fitness Conditioning & Enhancement Lab (ExCEL), a purpose-built fire research laboratory, underground road tunnels and a mixed-use premises (MUP) training facility incorporating a MRT station and bus interchange.

The redevelopment of the FTA will be carried out in phases and expected to be completed by end 2022.

FTA
GROUNDBREAKING
CEREMONY

30 July 2019



SCDF's Renewal of Letter of Cooperation with Vietnam Fire and Rescue Police Department

On 14 August 2019, SCDF and the Vietnam Fire and Rescue Police Department (VFRPD) signed a Letter of Cooperation (LOC) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The LOC signing ceremony was held on the side-line of the Vietnam Fire Safety Exhibition and Seminar 2019.

SCDF shares close bilateral relations with VFRPD. The cooperation between both organisations started in 2010 with the signing of a LOC with the then Administrative Management General Police Department on Social Order and Safety, Vietnam.

The signing of this LOC has facilitated the exchange and transfer of knowledge between both organisations. VFRPD has been sending officers to attend the Rota Commander Course (RCC) at the Singapore's Civil Defence Academy since 2012. To date, we have 31 officers from VFRPD who have completed the RCC.





Renewal of SCDF's Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Western Australia

On 19 August 2019, SCDF and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Western Australia (DFES) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in HQ SCDF.

The MOU is a renewal of SCDF's partnership with DFES, formerly known as the Fire and Emergency Authority of Western Australia, first established on 22 March 2005. The aim of the MOU is to facilitate the sharing of information and ideas on the delivery of firefighting and emergency services, collaborations on professional training in Urban Search and Rescue, Chemical, Biological and Radiological scenarios, and the establishment of an exchange programme between the two organisations.





SCDF

The Life Saving Force

... for a safer Singapore



Letter of Intent Signing Ceremony

Singapore Civil Defence Force & Malta Civil Protection Department

23 Nov 2019 Singapore

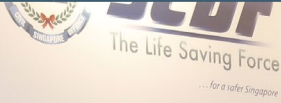


Signing of the Letter of Intent Between SCDF and Malta Civil Protection Department

On 23 November 2019, SCDF and the Malta Civil Protection Department signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) at the Max Atria, Singapore Expo. The signing was witnessed by the Guest-of-Honour, Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Home Affairs.

The LOI aims to facilitate the (a) exchange of scientific and technical information on the prevention, management and response of emergency situations; (b) development and exchange of innovative solutions and information; (c) establishment of staff exchange programme for professional development through operational attachment; (d) development of guidelines relating to the tactical and technical aspects of fire-fighting and rescue; and (e) reciprocal technical and advisory consultancy and support.





Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management Building ASEAN's Resiliency to Disaster

21 August 2019 | Singapore

Guest-of-Honour

Mrs Josephine Teo

Minister for Manpower and 2nd Minister for Home Affairs, Singapore

Knowledge Partner



Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM)

On 19 August 2019, SCDF conducted the 5th ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on disaster management (SPDDM) in conjunction with World Humanitarian Day at the InterContinental Singapore. The event was graced by Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Home Affairs.

Jointly organised by SCDF, the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), the SPDDM aims to sharpen ASEAN's strategic engagements and thought leadership in disaster management.





Appointment of officers into USAR or HAZMAT Expert Career Track

On 24 October 2019, an inaugural Appointment Ceremony for SCDF Expert Tracks was held at HQ SCDF ALLO, and officiated by DC Teong How Hwa, Deputy Commissioner (Future Technology & Public Safety). Four Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Senior Specialists and eight Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Senior Specialists were appointed into the SCDF Expert tracks.

The SCDF Expert Track was implemented to build deep expertise in strategic mission-critical functions and retain officers with deep expertise through recognition and continual development.





Launch of Ops-Tech Career Track

The Ops-Tech Career Track in SCDF was formally launched by DC Teong How Hwa, Deputy Commissioner (Future Technology & Public Safety), on 7 November 2019 at HQ SCDF. 55 officers from various SCDF departments and units attended the launch.

The Ops-Tech Career Track aims to build a cadre of uniformed officers who are grounded in operational experience and proficient in technology, in order to develop such in-depth capabilities for the Home Team effectively.

SCDF is the first Home Team department to roll out the Ops-Tech Career Track.





Singapore-Global Firefighters and Paramedics Challenge (SGFPC) 2019

The SGFPC 2019 was held on 23 November 2019 at Singapore Expo Convention and Exhibition Centre. The defending champion, WO1 Md Bukhary from Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team, successfully retained his title by winning the international Braveheart (Individual) Challenge, with a new record of 5 minutes and 12 seconds. SCDF also won another international event, the Rip-It-Off Challenge.

The SGFPC is an event whereby sportsmanship and camaraderie thrive amongst representatives of emergency services from around the globe. This year, 13 international teams participated in the SGFPC.





SCDF Parade 2019

On 23 November 2019, the SCDF Parade was jointly held with the Singapore-Global Firefighters and Paramedics Challenge (SGFPC) at the Singapore Expo Convention and Exhibition Centre. The SCDF Parade highlights the development and importance of Civil Defence in Singapore. It also provides a platform to recognise the contributions of our partners and the community in furthering the cause of civil defence.

The parade was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Home Affairs. This event signifies the pride and commitment of SCDF personnel to the Force and its lifesaving mission.



FIRST RESPONDERS **SAFETY AND PERFORMANCE SYMPOSIUM**

21ST NOVEMBER 2019

Guest-of-Honour

COMR ERIC YAP

Commissioner
Singapore Civil Defence Force



Inaugural First Responders Safety & Performance Symposium

On 21 November 2019, SCDF conducted the inaugural First Responders Safety & Performance Symposium (FRSPS) at Max Atria, Singapore Expo Convention and Exhibition Centre. It was officiated by COMR Eric Yap, Commissioner SCDF.

The symposium was held together with Temasek Foundation as SCDF's strategic partner and the Department of Physiology, NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, as the knowledge partner and co-curator of the academic programme.

International and local guests shared insightful knowledge such as the application of scientific research, technological innovation and robust standards, aimed at enhancing capabilities and outcomes of safety and performance of first responders.

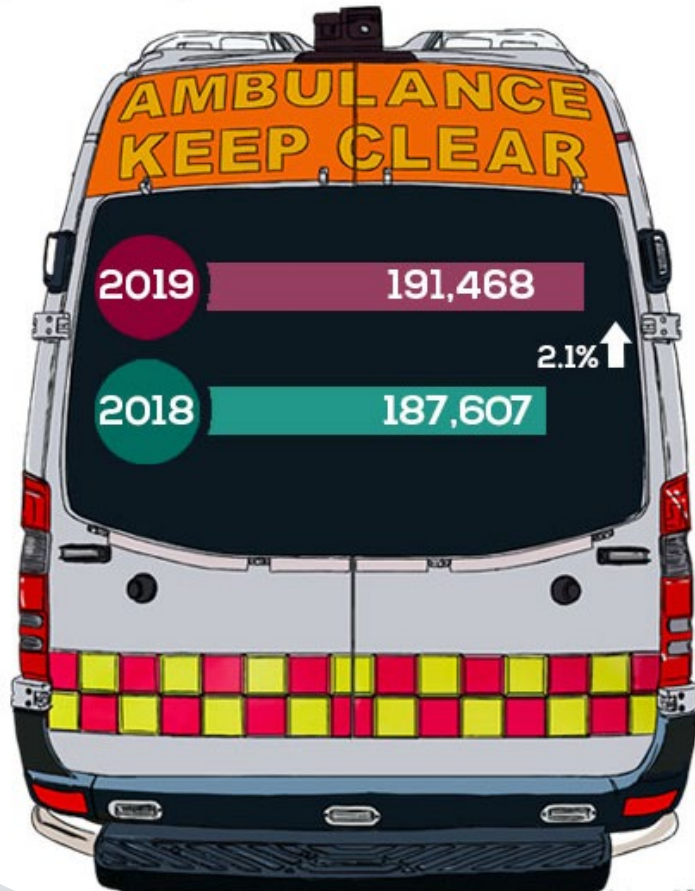


Civil Defence Academy (CDA) and National Service Training Institute (NSTI) are ISO 45001-certified

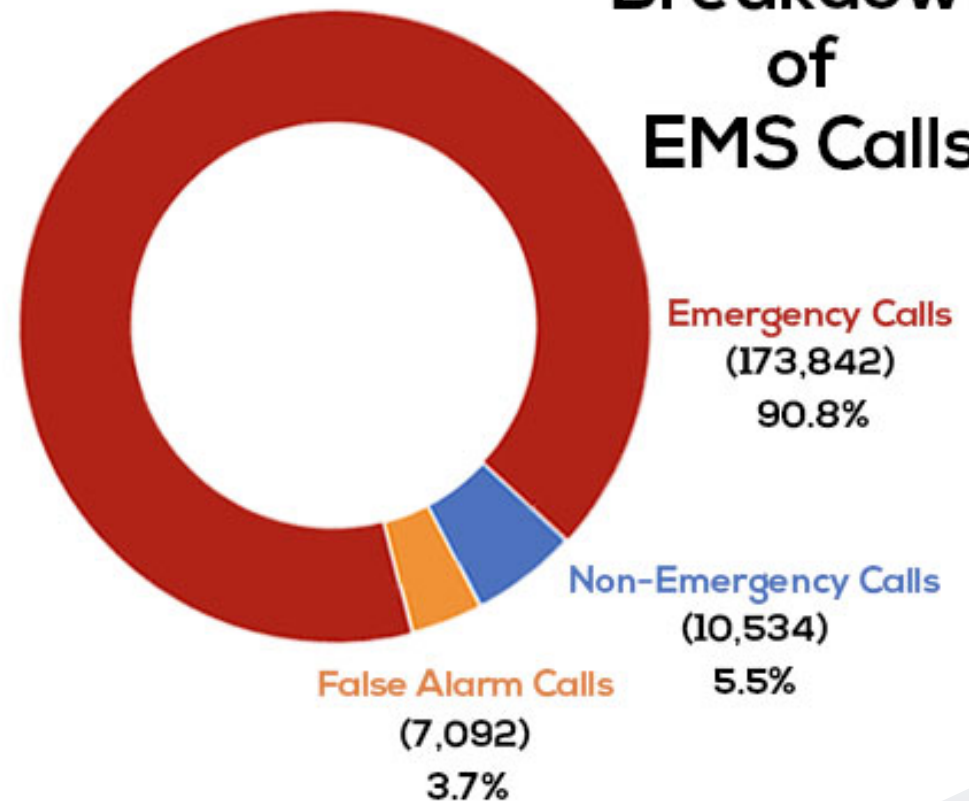
SCDF's Civil Defence Academy (CDA) and National Service Training Institute (NSTI) were awarded the ISO 45001 certification in November 2019. The ISO 45001 certification is an international standard for occupational health and safety. This is a testament to SCDF's robust training safety framework and commitment towards ensuring a safe training environment for our staff and trainees from all over the world.



Total Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Calls



Breakdown of EMS Calls

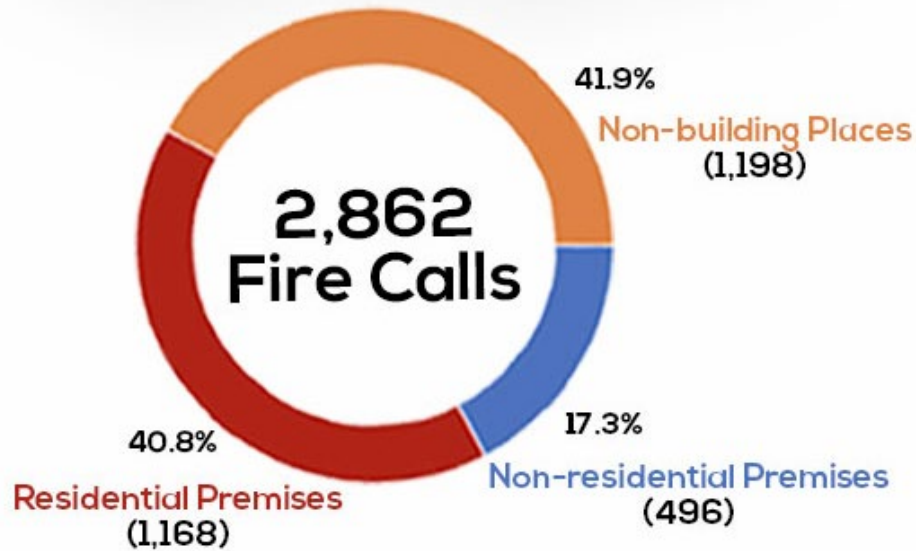


Breakdown of Fire Incidents



Fire Injuries 142

Fatality 1



PMD Fires

2019 - 102

2018 - 52

2017 - 42

2016 - 14

2015 - 1



Legend

FHANs - Fire Hazard Abatement Notices

NFSOs - Notices of Fire Safety Offences

Fire Safety Enforcement Checks

2,487

FHANs Issued

2,045

NFSOs Issued

123

Court Actions

Total
Enforcement
Checks

13,397



Rescue Calls

2,380

Total calls
2018

2,483

Total calls
2019

Road Traffic Accidents



2019	297
2018	303

Rescue Incidents



2019	2,186
2018	2,077



An in-house production



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