

MTR Conducts High Speed Rail Joint Exercises With Emergency Services

Starting today (18 July 2018), a series of major joint exercises simulating different emergency scenarios on the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong High Speed Rail (Hong Kong Section), involving the MTR Corporation, Fire Services Department and Hong Kong Police Force, will be conducted to test the effectiveness of emergency handling procedures and responses of the parties concerned.

The first exercise was held today and simulated a situation in which a passenger's luggage caught fire on a High Speed Rail train heading towards the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station. Under the scenario, the train lost power and stopped in the tunnel near the Mai Po Ventilation Building. Around 200 passengers were immediately detrained and evacuated to the adjacent tunnel after all precautionary safety measures were taken.

A specially arranged passenger train carrying emergency services personnel was dispatched from the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station through the adjacent tunnel to reach the location where the incident train stopped. When the special train arrived at the scene, it took the "injured" and other passengers to the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station where a temporary triage point was set up to give preliminary treatment to the "injured" before they were taken to the hospital.

Mr Adi Lau, Operations Director of the MTR Corporation, said, "Although the High Speed Rail system is designed and built in accordance with strict specifications so as to minimise the risk of fire or smouldering, it remains important for MTR staff to stay alert. Comprehensive procedures and contingency plans are in place for evacuations and crowd management to deal with emergencies."

Mr Lau said the joint exercises will strengthen the coordination and communication between MTR and various emergency services. "These exercises will provide a good opportunity to test the effectiveness of the emergency procedures and the coordination of all parties concerned. As I observed today, all participants performed their role and responded to the emergency in a robust, orderly, speedy and effective manner," he added.

With the substantial completion of the main project works, the High Speed Rail entered the trial operations stage in April 2018. The Corporation is working in full swing in preparation for commissioning the High Speed Rail service in September this year.

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About MTR Corporation

MTR Corporation is regarded as one of the world's leading railway operators for safety, reliability, customer service and cost efficiency. In its home base of Hong Kong, the Corporation operates ten commuter railway lines, a Light Rail network and a high-speed Airport Express link on which about 5.8 million passenger trips are made on a normal week day. Another 6.5 million passenger trips are made on the rail services it operates outside Hong Kong in the Mainland of China, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Australia. In addition, the Corporation is involved in a range of railway construction projects as well as railway consultancy and contracting services around the world. Leveraging on its railway expertise, the Corporation is involved in the development of transit-related residential and commercial property projects, property management, shopping malls leasing and management, advertising media and telecommunication services.

For more information about MTR Corporation, please visit www.mtr.com.hk.

Photo Caption:

1. Firemen rescue “injured passengers” and carry them to safe locations in the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station during the joint exercise today (18 July 2018).



2. With the assistance of station staff and the police, “passengers” are evacuated safely from the train.



3. MTR staff work closely with the Fire Services Department during the drill to validate emergency procedures.



4. Mr Lincoln Leong, Chief Executive Officer of MTR Corporation (middle), joined Dr Jacob Kam, Managing Director – Operations & Mainland Business (left) and Mr Adi Lau, Operations Director (right), to observe the drill in which around 200 MTR staff took part to test out the evacuation and emergency handling procedures.

