Simulated Fire Tests MTR Emergency Response Procedures

In an emergency evacuation exercise held at 2:00am this morning (12 April 2017), the MTR Corporation and emergency services joined hands to simulate a situation in which a passenger’s baggage ignited, causing a “fire” to break out in the fifth car of an Island Line train en route from Wan Chai Station to Admiralty Station.

The “incident” resulted in “dense smoke” spreading to other train compartments. The train captain immediately reported the emergency situation to the Operations Control Centre (OCC) and with the confirmation of OCC, he continued to drive the train to Admiralty Station for passenger evacuation. Police and the Fire Services were promptly alerted and station staff equipped with fire extinguishers were arranged to stand by on the platform, preparing to facilitate the evacuation of the passengers on board. When the train arrived, “passengers” were immediately evacuated from the train. Station staff also activated station evacuation promptly after confirming the fire situation. The passengers left the station in an orderly manner with the assistance of station staff and emergency services. The fire on the train was eventually put out with fire extinguishers by an MTR staff member and a passenger, while Fire Services officers rescued 22 “injured” passengers from the train and provided medical treatment before conveying them to hospital.

Apart from emergency services personnel, about 300 MTR staff and members of the public also took part in the joint exercise to act as “passengers”. Their involvement was aimed at enhancing public awareness on how to react during an emergency situation in the MTR and to familiarise them with the use of emergency equipment and evacuation arrangements.

“Through regular joint exercises with emergency service agencies, we are able to get better prepared for possible emergency situations, and then respond quickly and effectively when a real case occurs,” said Mr Adi Lau, Operations Director of MTR Corporation. “I am pleased that the exercise was completed smoothly, verifying the effectiveness of the emergency procedures, and the close cooperation, liaison and communications between MTR and the emergency services in responding to emergency situations in a timely manner.”

The Corporation conducts major emergency drills with the emergency services at least 12 times a year. The objectives of the annual drills and exercises are to validate emergency procedures under different contingency scenarios to ensure the effective use of the emergency equipment, and to allow MTR staff and emergency services personnel to practise evacuation and rescue procedures.

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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 5.6 million passenger trips are made on a normal week day. Another 5.6 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 Captions:

1. “Dense smoke” spreads out in the train compartments as a “fire” breaks out as part of the emergency exercise. Station staff with fire extinguishers are deployed to the platform of Admiralty Station to put out the fire when the train arrives.

2. With the assistance of station staff and police, “passengers” are evacuated from the train and safely leave the station.
3. Firemen rescue “injured” passengers and carry them to safe locations as part of the joint exercise this morning.
4. The joint exercise provides MTR Operations, Fire Services and Police personnel with a valuable opportunity to validate emergency procedures.