

MTR is Well Prepared for the Typhoon Season New Technology Enhances Tree Management

In preparation for the upcoming typhoon season, the MTR Corporation has put in place a number of measures to minimise the impacts from adverse weather on railway facilities and services. New tree management technology has also been introduced to further enhance preventive maintenance and contingency measures along open sections of railway lines.

Fallen trees are one of the major challenges facing train services during adverse weather. The MTR Corporation's Tree Management Team monitors around 33,000 trees along the open sections of various railway lines. With the use of Near-field Communication (NFC) technology, each tree is assigned an "electronic ID card" which contains information including its height, distance from the railway line, health condition and so on. This enables maintenance staff to effectively retrieve and update information with a mobile phone or tablet equipped with NFC function during regular checks on the vegetation. Analysis of the data collected can help the team to form and adjust its tree management strategy.

Mr Rick Wong, Head of Infrastructure Works of the MTR Corporation, said the Corporation is also collaborating with meteorologists from the City University of Hong Kong to analyse historical data of typhoons through computer modelling. "We aim to develop a Risk Map for trees along railway lines depending on the paths of severe typhoons and their wind direction. This would allow the tree management team to strengthen tree management at strategic locations for more effective recovery after severe typhoons," he added.

As for railway stations, thorough inspection of drainage systems and nearby ditches have been completed ahead of this year's typhoon season. Flood-prevention equipment such as flood boards and sand bags are also in place, while drills have been conducted to enhance station staff's response capabilities. Nevertheless, after a typhoon, it may not be possible to resume normal train service immediately as a longer time may be required for maintenance staff to clear fallen trees or debris from the trackside to ensure safe train operations. If that happens, the MTR Corporation would appeal for passengers' understanding and patience.

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“The MTR Corporation has been reviewing post-typhoon shuttle bus arrangements with the Transport Department, such as considering providing shuttle buses to divert passengers to railway lines that are in service when there is a long delay or when a railway line can only provide limited service. However, shuttle buses cannot fully replace the railway even when the roads are not blocked by fallen trees, due to the difference in passenger capacity. During typhoons, we suggest passengers should pay attention to the latest train service arrangements through MTR Mobile, the MTR website, the media and public announcements in stations,” said Mr Allen Ding, Head of Operating – North and East Regions of the MTR Corporation.

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About MTR Corporation

Every day, MTR connects people and communities. As a recognised world-class operator of sustainable rail transport services, we are a leader in safety, reliability, customer service and efficiency.

MTR has extensive end-to-end railway expertise with more than 40 years of railway projects experience from design to planning and construction through to commissioning, maintenance and operations. Going beyond railway delivery and operation, MTR also creates and manages dynamic communities around its network through seamless integration of rail, commercial and property development.

With more than 40,000 dedicated staff*, MTR carries over 12 million passenger journeys worldwide every weekday in Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Australia and the Mainland of China. MTR strives to grow and connect communities for a better future.

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

*includes our subsidiaries and associates in Hong Kong and worldwide

Photo caption:

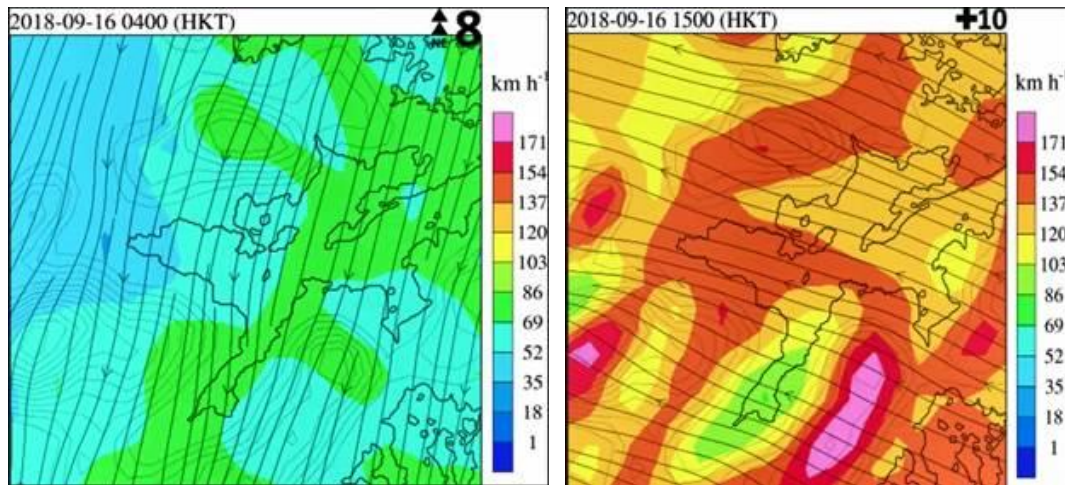
1. MTR's Tree Management Team prepares "electronic ID cards" for trees located adjacent to railway lines using Near-field Communications (NFC) technology.



2. A tree climber specialist is deployed by MTR to check on trees in the vicinity of railway facilities.



- MTR is collaborating with meteorologists from the City University of Hong Kong to analyse historical data of typhoons through computer modelling. This allows the team to develop a Risk Map for trees along railway lines depending on the paths of severe typhoons and their wind direction, which enables MTR to strengthen tree management at strategic locations.



- MTR staff gear up for the typhoon season with thorough inspections of station drainage systems, nearby ditches as well as flood-prevention equipment to ensure they are in good conditions.



Service Arrangement for Typhoon

Heavy Rail, Light Rail and MTR Bus services



- **Standby Signal 1 and Strong Wind Signal 3:** Rail and MTR Bus services will remain normal.
- **Advance Notice of Gale or Storm Signal 8:** Rail and MTR Bus services will initially remain normal, with service frequencies to be increased gradually if necessary to meet passenger demand.
- **Gale or Storm Signal 8:** Rail and MTR Bus services will initially remain normal with additional staff deployed to increase service frequencies if passenger demand requires. However, the service frequencies will be reduced as the storm gets closer to Hong Kong. MTR Bus service will be suspended 3 hours after Signal 8 is issued.
- **Increasing Gale or Storm Signal 9 and Hurricane Signal 10:** There will be no service in open sections of the railway. To ensure railway safety, the service frequencies of underground railway sections may be reduced. Stations will remain open, if circumstances permit, to provide shelter to passengers whose travels are affected.

High Speed Rail



- **Standby Signal 1 and Strong Wind Signal 3:** High Speed Rail service will remain normal.
- **Gale or Storm Signal 8 and Increasing Gale or Storm Signal 9:**
The High Speed Rail (Hong Kong Section) is connected to the national high speed rail network on the Mainland. When the Gale or Storm Signal 8 or Increasing Gale or Storm Signal 9 has been issued, MTR will closely communicate with the Mainland railway authorities about service arrangements, having regard to the weather conditions in Hong Kong and the Mainland. Passengers are advised to pay attention to the latest train service information.
- **Hurricane Signal 10:** HSR service will be suspended.