

MTR Strongly Condemns Arson at Railway Facilities

Fire was maliciously set to railway facilities at more than 20 MTR stations during the public activities in different districts today (1 October 2019), severely impacting the safety of passengers, MTR staff and the railway. The MTR Corporation reiterates that arson can result in very serious consequences. The Corporation expresses its deepest anger over and strongly condemns these illegal behaviours which put the safety of passengers and MTR staff at risk. The incidents have been reported to the Police.

The MTR Corporation carried out a detailed risk assessment prior to today's public activities. For the safety of passengers and staff, and following discussions with relevant government departments, 11 stations including Admiralty, Wan Chai, Prince Edward, Causeway Bay and Sha Tin were closed in a gradual manner starting from this morning as a prudent measure. In addition, upon the request of the Government and the Airport Authority, Airport Express trains have been travelling between Hong Kong and Airport stations only since 2pm today with the trains not stopping at Kowloon, Tsing Yi and AsiaWorld-Expo stations.

A large number of stations on railway lines were affected to varying degrees during the public activities. Fire was maliciously set to a number of heavy rail and Light Rail stations including the following:

- Glass panels at the security operation centre of Tsuen Wan Depot were smashed with petrol bombs hurled into the centre
- A petrol bomb was thrown onto a section of tracks between Siu Hong and Tuen Mun stations on the West Rail Line
- Petrol bombs were hurled into a lift at Sham Shui Po Station
- Fire was set to facilities at Tsuen Wan, Sham Shui Po, Yau Ma Tei, Jordan, Central, Admiralty, Wan Chai, Causeway Bay, Diamond Hill and Tai Wai stations as well as the ventilation building of Wong Tai Sin Station
- Fire was set to the platforms of Light Rail Town Centre, Tai Hing (North) and Choy Yee Bridge stops; fire was also set to the staff rest room at Town Centre Stop

Meanwhile, railway facilities in different stations were vandalised. Violent protesters broke into Tsuen Wan Station on the Tsuen Wan Line, which was already closed at the time, and damaged a train berthed in a platform, hurled a petrol bomb onto the track, maliciously damaged ticket issuing machines, add-value machines, entry/exit gates, CCTV cameras as well as defaced facilities with graffiti. For Light

Rail, facilities in the staff rest room of Town Centre Stop were moved and disposed of on the tracks and ticket issuing machines at Choy Yee Bridge Stop were vandalised. Protesters also broke into and caused damages to facilities in Tai Wai and Che Kung Temple stations after the stations were closed. Objects were maliciously hurled onto the tracks near Kowloon Tong Station on the East Rail Line as well. Moreover, glass panels at the entrances/exits of stations such as Sham Shui Po, Admiralty and Choi Hung were smashed.

Immediate closure of a number of stations had to be implemented to ensure the safety of passengers and staff. Service on the Tsuen Wan Line was suspended at around 4pm today while service on the Ma On Shan Line was suspended at around 7pm. 47 heavy rail stations were closed as of 10:30pm today.

MTR staff have been striving to provide safe and smooth railway service to members of the public under feasible and safe conditions. However, multiple stations were maliciously and violently damaged, endangering the safety of passengers and staff. The Corporation had no choice but to gradually close the stations and adjust train service. Conditions at some of the stations were extreme to the point that station staff had to evacuate. The Corporation appeals for passengers' understanding for the inconvenience caused by service adjustments. The Corporation expresses its anger over protesters setting fire at multiple locations on railway premises and damaging railway facilities which obstructed railway safety. The Corporation strongly condemns these arbitrary behaviours which can constitute serious crimes and has reported the incidents to the Police.

MTR maintenance staff will inspect the vandalised facilities, assess the extent of damages and carry out repair works. We strive to maintain our service for the public. However, it is possible that certain stations and their facilities may not be able to resume service tomorrow. Passengers are advised to pay attention to the MTR website, MTR Mobile, station and in-train announcements for the latest train service information. The Corporation will also disseminate relevant information in a timely manner through the media.

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Photo Caption

Light Rail Town Centre Stop



Tsuen Wan Station



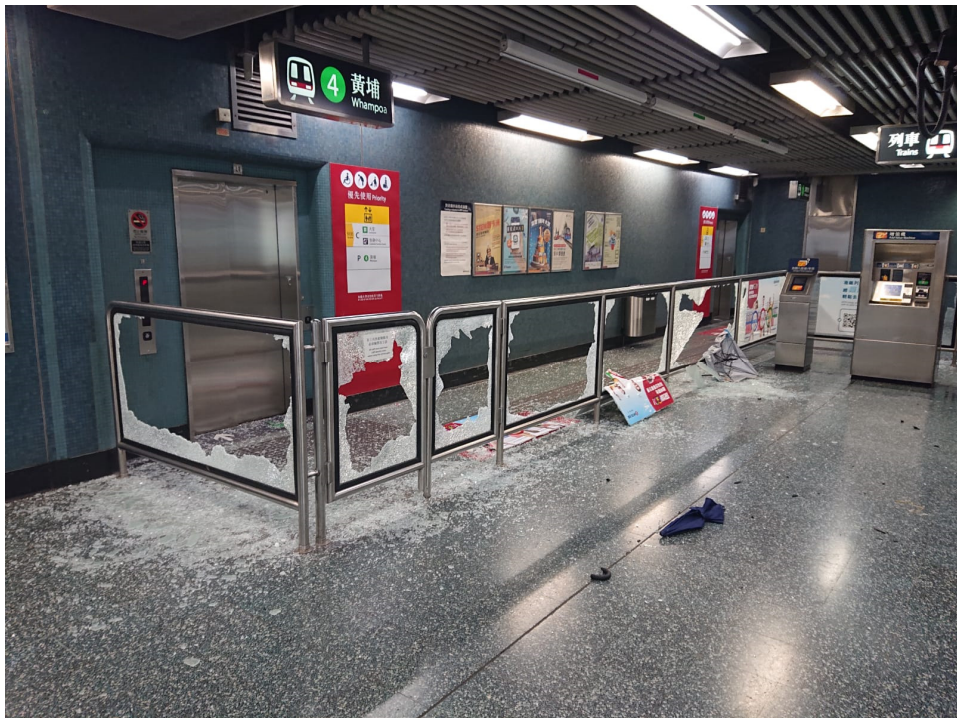
Kowloon Tong Station on East Rail Line



Causeway Bay Station



Choi Hung Station



Wong Tai Sin Station

