

PRESS STATEMENT

22 September 2019

MTR Strongly Condemns Vandalism of Railway Facilities and Arson

The MTR Corporation strongly condemns vandalism of railway facilities and the intentional misuse of equipment on train by protestors today (September 22, 2019). Such illegal actions endangered the safety of other passengers, MTR staff and train operation. The Corporation is also deeply concerned about a suspected arson case at Siu Ho Wan Depot. The Corporation takes these incidents very seriously and has reported them to the Police. We reserve the right to take legal action against the concerned parties.

At about 2:35am today, while performing duty along the tracks outside Siu Ho Wan Depot, MTR maintenance staff heard a loud sound and saw a fire at the trackside. They immediately notified the Police and Fire Services Department via the Operations Control Centre and used portable fire extinguisher to put out the fire. No one was injured in the incident. The Fire Services Department personnel arrived at the scene, confirmed the area of the fireground was about two meters by one meter, and considered the cause of the fire suspicious. MTR maintenance staff subsequently checked the railway facilities on site and found that a power supply cable laid on the ground was damaged. As the incident occurred during non-traffic hours, it did not affect the services of the Tung Chung Line and the Airport Express. The Police has classified the incident as an arson case.

In addition, fire was set on an entry/exit gate in Tseung Kwan O Station at around 1am. The Corporation also reported the case to the Police.

At around 5pm today, a group of persons illegally trespassed the rear driving cabin of a Tung Chung-bound train at Nam Cheong Station on Tung Chung Line when the train was performing platform duty. They unlawfully opened the emergency exit ramp, resulting in a disruption to the train service. Subsequently, MTR staff had to restore the ramp, conduct a thorough search to ensure that the track area is clear and check railway facilities to confirm they work normally. As a result, train service of Tung Chung Line was delayed and service gradually resumed at 5:42pm.

The relevant emergency exits and ramps are safety equipment on the train. In the event of serious incident when passengers need to be evacuated to the track area, the emergency exit ramp will be laid down. Therefore, the equipment is designed to make it easy for passengers to use in an emergency so as to facilitate the rescue. When the equipment is activated, the train captain in the front driving cabin will also be alerted. Any intentional interference of operation of such equipment, according to the extent of impact caused, may result in committing criminal offence.

-more-

In the afternoon, radical protestors maliciously vandalised ticket machines, add-value machines, entry/exit gates, CCTV cameras, and smeared station facilities at various MTR stations. To protect the safety of passengers and staff, as at 11pm, Sha Tin, Tsing Yi, Kowloon, Kwai Fong, Prince Edward and Mong Kok stations were temporarily closed.

The malicious acts of the protestors not only severely impacted on passenger journeys but also endanger the safety of passengers and MTR staff. MTR staff have been striving to provide safe and smooth railway service to members of the public. However, if violence, vandalism, other malicious acts or large-scale contraventions of the MTR By-laws occur which may generate risks or result in emergency situations that seriously endanger the safety of passengers and staff, train service to and from the concerned stations may be stopped immediately. Station may also be closed with little or no prior notice. In the event that such situations occur and cause inconvenience to passengers, the Corporation appeals for passengers' understanding. We also request members of the public to be considerate, to comply with the MTR By-laws so as to assure the safe operation of the railway.

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

- End -

Photo caption:

1. A fire was set on an entry/exit gate in Tseung Kwan O Station.



2. A group of persons illegally trespassed the rear driving cabin of a Tung Chung-bound train at Nam Cheong Station on Tung Chung Line when the train was performing platform duty.



3. Radical protestors maliciously vandalised ticket machines, value-added machines, entry gates, CCTV cameras, and smeared station facilities at Sha Tin Station.

