

FIRE SAFETY AND SHELTER SEMINAR




The Fire Safety and Shelter Seminar was held at the Singapore Expo on 26 October 2010. SCDF officers presented topics on new fire safety and shelter practices, such as Demerit Point System (DPS), Product Listing Scheme (PLS) for ventilation sleeve and rescue hatch in shelters and fire safety requirements for Outdoor Refreshment Areas (ORAS). Useful pointers for plan submissions, as well as interpretation of Fire Code Part Five were also covered in the seminar.



MINIMISE FIRE HAZARDS & PREVENT FIRE OUTBREAKS THIS FESTIVE SEASON

Fire safety is a collective community responsibility and together we can help to reduce fire occurrences in Singapore. Just follow these fire safety tips:

1. Management of public buildings must ensure that escape passageways are free of obstruction and fire exit doors are kept accessible for use during emergencies.
2. Overcrowding, especially in public entertainment outlets such as discotheques and pubs, should be avoided as it would impede the safe evacuation of people from the premises in the event of fire.
3. Check decorative lighting fixtures regularly. If there are wear and tear problems, replace them immediately, using the service of licensed electricians if necessary.
4. Do not leave decorative lighting fixtures switched-on when leaving home or when going to bed. Indoor lighting fixtures should only be used indoors to avoid electric shocks and short circuits.
5. Use decorative lighting fixtures which carry the SAFETY MARK. 
6. Decorations made of light tissue paper or cardboard burn easily. Do not attach them to lights or other heat source, and always keep them away from candles.
7. Lit candles should be placed in stable holders on heat-resistant surface, so that they will not fall over. Lit candles should also be kept away from Christmas trees, paper or cardboard decorations, foliage, curtains and furnishings.

Members of public who notice fire hazards, may report them to SCDF at 1800-2800000.



CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY HANDBOOK – 2010 EDITION

The latest edition of the Civil Defence Emergency Handbook was launched by Assoc Prof Ho Peng Kee, Senior Minister of State for Law and Home Affairs, on 4 December 2010, at Nee Soon East Community Club. First introduced in 1990, the handbook enters its 20th year in print and has been regularly updated with new emergency scenarios. The latest edition includes new topics, such as basic first aid for sprains, stroke and fits, how to handle car fires, as well as advisories on earthquakes and typhoons for those travelling overseas.

You can collect a copy of the handbook at the following locations:

- (1) All Fire Stations & Fire Posts
- (2) All Neighbourhood Police Centres & Police Posts
- (3) Community Clubs
- (4) HomeTeamNS Clubhouses



FIRE SAFETY TIPS IN YOUR IPHONE

NFEC & SCDF introduced a new iPhone application on Fire Safety on 4 December 2010. It is the first in a series of four apps that help to prepare members of public for emergencies on the new platform. The other three apps are on Basic First Aid, CPR and how to handle unconventional threats and peacetime emergencies. The apps will provide iPhone and iPad users the flexibility to view emergency procedures via the interactive and step-by-step animation and videos.

Members of public, who have downloaded the app, stand a chance to win attractive prizes by participating in an online quiz at the SCDF website (<http://www.scdf.gov.sg>) and SCDF Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/SCDFpage>).



To download the app, search for "SCDF fire safety" in the iTunes store.



A few teaser videos for the app are available on SCDF YouTube channel. (<http://www.youtube.com/user/SCDFvideos>)

NFEC FIRE SAFETY SEMINAR

Due to the overwhelming response, the annual Fire Safety Seminar this year was extended by an additional run to benefit more fire safety practitioners. The full-day seminar was held on 29 and 30 September 2010 at Furama Riverfront Hotel. Participants were equipped and updated on the common causes of fire and prevention, common fire safety non-compliances, importance of insurance to restore a business after a fire and the latest trends in fire protection technology.

Another key component of the seminar was the interactive workshop session where participants engaged in discussions on recent fire case studies. The summary of workshop discussion is available on the NFEC website at the following URL: http://www.nfec.gov.sg/publication_conf_seminar.html



Opening address by Ms Margaret Heng, Chairperson for Commercial Premises Committee.

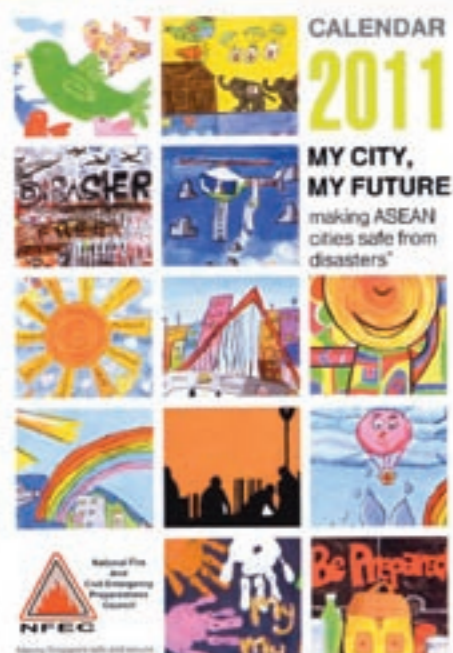


Speech by Guest of Honour - COMR Peter Lim, Commissioner SCDF

Q&A panel made up of COL Anwar Abdullah, NFEC Executive Director and the four speakers for the seminar.



ASEAN DRAWING COMPETITION



"My City, My Future - Making ASEAN Cities Safe from Disasters" was the theme for the ASEAN Drawing Competition this year. Prior to the regional competition, a local selection was held in July 2010. The competition saw numerous entries from local budding artists between eight-12 years old. Among the entries submitted, the art piece by Teo Geng Cheng from Meridian Primary School was eventually selected to represent Singapore for the regional competition held in Bangkok. The results were announced in October 2010 and Geng Cheng was placed as one of the consolation winners. To commemorate the event, winning entries were made into a table-top calendar that is given out to all NFEC members.

FIRE SAFETY CARTOON

In October 2010, NFEC collaborated with a group of final-year students from the School of Interactive and Digital Media in Nanyang Polytechnic, to produce an animated video about fire safety. Targeted at primary school students, the cartoon will be screened in all local primary schools in 2011. Students can also view the cartoon on the SCDF YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/users/SCDFvideos>).



MASS FIRE EVACUATION DRILLS



32 buildings, 1,207 tenants and about 3,436 people participated in **Mass Fire Evacuation Drills (MFED)** for commercial and industrial premises from 3 - 30 Sep 2010, in support of Homefront Security Month. This is one of the key activities organised by NFEC to promote emergency evacuation awareness. The fire evacuation drills helped to test the skills and knowledge of emergency response teams. All participating companies received a Certificate of Participation from NFEC.

Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) conducted their Fire Evacuation Drill on 6 September 2010 at the Universal Studio Singapore (USS). Mr. Oh Kar Chye (Vice President for Security, RWS) shares his experience on *Flashpoint*.

How was the fire evacuation drill at RWS?

It was quite well conducted and helped to raise the fire safety awareness of the staff and prepare them to handle such evacuations.

What are the challenges that you face when conducting an evacuation in a Theme Park?

The high number of people in the open space can pose a great challenge. It certainly requires planning and organisation to ensure a speedy and effective evacuation.

The morale of your staff was very high during the drill. How do you achieve this?

Through imbuing "kampong" spirit where everyone cares for the well being of each other and works together as a cohesive team.

