

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB386**

**(Question Serial No. 4899)**

Head: (27) Civil Aid Service  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (1) Civil Aid Service  
Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Civil Aid Service (Mr. LAM Kwok-wah)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security  
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 97 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 153):

Regarding the work of the Civil Aid Service (CAS), please advise on the following:

- a) about the CAS's provision of efficient and effective auxiliary emergency and civic services to government departments and outside agencies, such as flood rescue, mountain search and rescue, combatting communicable diseases and contingency response training in radiological incidents, please inform us in the past 5 years, the number of various services provided by the CAS in each year and the expenditure and manpower involved in a breakdown by year and type of service;
- b) about the provision of full-time and part-time training through the CAS Training School, the target man-hour planned for 2014 is 65 000, which is lower than those for 2012 and 2013. Please advise the reason for that and whether the Administration has assessed the impact of decreased training hours on service quality.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

- a) For details about the services provided by the CAS in the past 5 years, please refer to Annex I.
- b) The target man-hour has always been 65,000 regarding the full-time and part-time training provided through the CAS Training School to ensure that the civic service provided by members is up to standard. The increase for 2012 and 2013 was due to the increase of training hours resulting from the increased number of new recruits and the enhancement of specific training during the period. As these training courses have been completed, the CAS expects that the demand on training hours will resume to normal level in 2014, and the service quality will not be affected.

Auxiliary Emergency and Civic Services provided by the CAS in the past 5 years

Item	Type of Service	2009			2010			2011			2012			2013		
		Number	Man-hour	Expenditure	Number	Man-hour	Expenditure	Number	Man-hour	Expenditure	Number	Man-hour	Expenditure	Number	Man-hour	Expenditure
1	Mountain search and rescue	52	14,000	484,000	82	12,000	448,000	69	7,000	204,000	80	3,000	137,000	74	4,000	168,000
2	Countryside fire fighting	31	2,000	111,000	9	1,000	81,000	14	1,000	56,000	37	2,000	98,000	13	1,000	43,000
3	Typhoons, flooding, mudslip and others (including combatting communicable diseases*)	3	76,000*	3,666,000	5	2,000	131,000	27	2,000	120,000	15	12,000	552,000	7	64,000*	3,340,000
4	Crowd management and other civic duties	230	95,000	4,647,000	210	77,000	3,170,000	230	80,000	3,448,000	220	87,000	3,906,000	231	76,000	3,384,000
5	Contingency response training in radiological incidents	1	272	20,000	1	288	21,000	1	312	20,000	2	2,000	145,000	1	424	28,000

\*[Note 1] The service of combatting communicable diseases was provided in 2009 and 2013

[Note 2] Man-hour and expenditure are rounded to the nearest thousand

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**(Question Serial No. 6449)**

Head: (27) Civil Aid Service  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (-) Not Specified  
Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Civil Aid Service (Mr. LAM Kwok-wah)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security  
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 103 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 408):

In the past 5 years, what were the numbers of work injury and fatal work injury of staff of all ranks at the Civil Aid Service (CAS) and their percentages to the respective rank? What has been done by the CAS to prevent work injury and promote occupational safety and health (OSH) in each year?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

In the past 5 years, the CAS recorded 3 cases of non-serious work injury in total. One of the cases involved an Assistant Clerical Officer (7% of the total number of staff of the rank) and the other 2 cases involved Operations and Training Assistants (33% of the total number of staff of the rank).

The CAS has set up the Departmental Occupational Safety and Health Management Committee to co-ordinate the work for the prevention of work injury and the promotion of OSH, including the provision of staff training on OSH and protective equipment, regular checks on the working environment and the elimination of possible danger. The CAS has also developed guidelines on OSH and regularly circulates related information to promote the importance of OSH and enhance the awareness among staff.

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**SB388**

**(Question Serial No. 5233)**

Head: (27) Civil Aid Service  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses  
Programme: (-) Not Specified  
Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Civil Aid Service (Mr. LAM Kwok-wah)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security  
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 103 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 9):

What is the 2014-15 estimate for the Civil Aid Service (CAS)'s duty visits or exchanges to the Mainland? Please provide information about the themes of the duty visits or exchanges to the Mainland planned for 2014-15. How will the Administration prevent activities irrelevant to official duties from taking place during duty visits outside Hong Kong? And how will the Administration prevent applications for revising visit destinations from becoming a mere formality?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

In 2014-15, the CAS has no specific plans for conducting duty visits or exchange trips to the Mainland for the time being.

Duty visits, if publicly funded, are subject to control under relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure effective monitoring and proper use of public funds. There is control on aspects, such as duty visits should only be conducted when there are strong operational reasons; all duty visits should obtain prior approval formally and should avoid non-official activities; the officers concerned should provide all necessary information in respect of the proposed visit as far as possible when submitting the application; if there are any subsequent changes to the arrangements, the officers concerned should inform the approving officers as soon as possible who should then assess whether re-consideration of the applications is needed.