CHAPTER 16

RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEPARTMENTS AND BUREAUX

Overall Command and Co-ordination
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Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)

16.1 The Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation is responsible for the following –

*Control of food* *(See also under FEHD - paragraph 16.5)*

(a) the monitoring and control of local agricultural produce (milk, vegetables, livestock, live poultry and fish) (Chapter 9);

(b) the monitoring and control of fresh primary produce at farms and wholesale markets (Chapter 9);

(c) assistance in the disposal of contaminated produce under the Waste Disposal Action Plan (Chapter 10);

(d) assistance with the notification of persons on Ping Chau and visitors of the affected Country, Marine and Geo Parks to leave or take shelter (Chapter 6);

*Marine Water Monitoring*

(e) collecting marine water samples at designated Fish Culture Zones (Chapter 4); and

*Other matters*

(f) deploying a Liaison Officer to EMSC, if requested.

Department of Health (DH)

16.2 The Director of Health is responsible for the following -

*Assessment of radiological health hazard*

(a) acting as a member of CESG (Chapter 2);

(b) deploying a Liaison Officer to EMSC (Chapter 2);

(c) providing professional assessment on the potential human health hazard following any release of radioactivity and advising on countermeasures to eliminate or minimise this hazard (Chapters 4 and 6);

(d) convening Radiological Protection Advisory Group (RPAG) if necessary which will advise D of Health on the situation and radiological protective actions (Chapter 4);

(e) following developments on the WHO front and assessing the public health risk in nuclear emergencies. In the event that the
WHO makes temporary recommendations under Article 15 of IHR2005 regarding response to nuclear accident, D of Health will follow closely developments on this front in considering the necessary enactment of subsidiary legislation under Section 9 of the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599) to support the appropriate government actions. (Chapters 7, 14 and 15);

(f) advising on the need and demand for setting up Monitoring Centres (MCs) to provide assistance to contaminated persons (Chapter 8);

(g) based on scientific evidence, stockpiling sufficient amount of thyroid blocking agent and advising on related storage and management, and drawing up guidelines on thyroid blocking taking reference from WHO’s advice (Chapter 6);

(h) deploying medical teams to MCs to provide counselling (Chapter 8); and

(i) providing advice on human health impact with respect to radiation to Departmental Radiological Protection Officers (DRPOs) and on the appropriate protective actions, if any, which staff in the field should take (Chapter 13).

**Environment Bureau (ENB)**

16.3 The Secretary for the Environment (SEN) has policy responsibility for the provision of electricity supply in Hong Kong and is a member of CESG. The Permanent Secretary for the Environment is a Director of the HKNIC. They are responsible for -

(a) acting as a member of CESG (Chapter 2);

(b) assisting S for S and DEMS in liaison with CLP, HKNIC, GNPJVC and DNMC on matters relating to the GNPS/LNPS (Chapters 2, 3 and 11);

(c) working with the local power companies to ensure that the effect on Hong Kong of any disruption and/or reduction to the power supplied to Hong Kong by the GNPS is mitigated and minimized through the provision of additional power from other sources (Chapter 11); and

(d) advising from energy policy aspects of matters relating to liability for damages arising from the radiological consequences of any emergency in as much as they affect Hong Kong (Chapter 12).
16.4 The Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services is responsible for the following -

(a) acting as a member of CESG (Chapter 2);

(b) deploying a Liaison Officer to EMSC (Chapter 2);

(c) obtaining from PEACO, GNPJVC and DNMC, through HKOMAC and/or EMSC, updated information on the plant conditions of the GNPS/LNPS, and liaising with the appropriate authorities on any further data/information exchange (Chapter 3);

(d) liaising with HKNIC and CLP to obtain information about the plant and power supply conditions and other matters in accordance with both the requirements of the Electricity Ordinance and administrative arrangements (Chapters 3 and 11);

(e) providing technical interpretation of information relating to the engineering aspects of any incident at the GNPS/LNPS, how it may develop and what the implications would be for Hong Kong in terms of both hazard and loss of power supply (Chapters 3 and 11);

(f) assisting ENB in working with the power companies to devise ways to minimise the power disruption resulting from an incident at the GNPS/LNPS (Chapter 11);

(g) keeping S for S, via EMSC, HKOMAC and CESG fully informed of the situation with respect to the plant conditions of the GNPS/LNPS, the progress of the incident and the assessment of the potential for any radioactive release (Chapters 3 and 11);

(h) following accident development as may be brought out by IAEA and other international and national organizations to assess the plant conditions, especially regarding a nuclear accident outside Daya Bay (Chapters 3 and 15);

(i) manning the EMSD Co-ordination Office when the DBCP is activated (Chapter 3); and

(j) co-ordinating the supply of monitoring equipment available from the stock at EMSD (Pool) in accordance with the advice from EMSC. (Chapter 13)
The Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene is responsible for the following –

(a) assisting other departments in collection and disposal of contaminated or radioactive waste, according to the Waste Disposal Action Plan (Chapter 10);

(b) hosing down contaminated vehicles at points of entry (Chapters 7 and 9) by using high pressure hoses of water wagon;

Control of food (See also under AFCD - paragraph 16.1)

(c) monitoring and control of all imported food and live food animals at the points of entry (Chapter 9);

(d) monitoring and control of all food processed in Hong Kong e.g. meat at slaughterhouses, milk at milk factories; etc. (Chapter 9); and

(e) monitoring and control of all food at retail outlets (Chapter 9).

The Secretary for Food and Health is responsible for the following -

(a) acting as a member of CESG (Chapter 2);

(b) maintaining policy oversight of public health, food safety and food supply concerning the DBCP; and

(c) activation of the Food Control Committee if the food supply situation warrants it (Chapter 9).

The Secretary for Home Affairs is responsible for the following -

(a) acting as a member of CESG (Chapter 2); and

(b) maintaining policy oversight of district matters concerning the DBCP.
16.8 The Director of the Hong Kong Observatory is responsible for the following -

(a) acting as a member of CESG (Chapter 2);

(b) acting as SB's agent and first point of contact, on a 24-hour basis, for receiving and authenticating messages from the PEACO and IAEA in accordance with bilateral agreements and the international conventions on Early Notification and Assistance (Chapter 3);

(c) gathering information on accident development as may be brought out by IAEA and other international and national bodies to assess possible impacts on Hong Kong, especially regarding an accident outside Daya Bay (Chapters 3 and 15);

(d) exchanging radiological and meteorological data with the Guangdong authorities (Chapters 3 and 4);

(e) acting as a monitoring and assessment centre for detecting any release of radioactive materials from the GNPS/LNPS, notifying SB, EMSD and DH of events (including rumours) indicating possible releases from the GNPS/LNPS so that a combined assessment can be made and S for S can determine the activation level of the DBCP (Chapter 3);

(f) acting as an adviser to SB by keeping it fully informed of the radiological situation, predictions and assessments, and recommending to it, in consultation with DH and EMSD, any necessary countermeasures to protect the public against direct exposure to the radioactive plume (Chapters 3 and 4); specific advice will be given concerning -

(i) evacuation or sheltering of people on Ping Chau and Mirs Bay within the 20 km EPZ I (Chapter 6);

(ii) implementation of boundary control measures (Chapter 7); and

(iii) establishment of MCs (Chapter 8);

(g) coordinating the government effort in radiation monitoring in the plume exposure pathway if necessary; in ordinary times this would include maintaining an inventory of HKO’s radiological measuring instruments and ensuring the correct calibration for those instruments under HKO’s maintenance (Chapter 4);
(h) liaising with other government departments in the monitoring of food produce and drinking water (Chapter 9);

(i) advising S for S whether and what type of assistance is required from external organisations (e.g. IAEA) (Chapter 14); and

(j) deploying a Liaison Officer to EMSC (Chapter 2); and

(k) organizing training programmes for DRPOs (Chapter 13).

Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF)

16.9 The Commissioner of Police is responsible for the following -

(a) acting as a member of CESG (Chapter 2);

Alerting

(b) ensuring a capability exists for receiving and responding to any emergency message from Guangdong concerning an incident at the GNPS/LNPS (Chapter 3);

(c) assisting in the task of alerting emergency organisations (Chapter 3);

Preparation

(d) determining, based on information provided by EMSC and HKOMAC, which police resources may be required to deal with the evolving situation;

(e) ensuring that police resources can be called upon and deployed rapidly should the need arise;

Operational duties

(f) preparing to evacuate or shelter persons on Ping Chau and in the 20 km EPZ 1 in Mirs Bay and implementing the action when ordered by EMSC (Chapter 6);

(g) controlling crowds and traffic which may develop following rumours of an incident or accident at the GNPS/LNPS;

(h) the continued maintenance of law and order;

Supporting duties

(i) providing manpower and logistical support for -

(i) distribution of thyroid blocking agents; and
(ii) deployment of other emergency personnel;

(j) opening the Casualty Enquiry Unit in the event of either the evacuation of Ping Chau or the opening of MCs (Chapters l and 8); and

(k) providing a senior Police officer as a Liaison Officer and an experienced the third generation Computer Assisted Command and Control System (CACCS3) terminal operator to EMSC.

Information Services Department (ISD)

16.10.1 The Director of Information Services will convene the Information Policy Committee to advise the CESG on the overall information and public relations strategy both locally and overseas (Chapter 5).

16.10.2 The Director of Information Services is responsible for the following -

(a) acting as a member of CESG (Chapter 2);

(b) deploying a Liaison Officer to EMSC (Chapter 2);

(c) keeping the public informed promptly of the situation, through the news media (Chapter 5);

(d) countering rumours and misleading information (Chapter 5);

(e) providing the public advice on actions they can take (Chapter 5);

(f) providing assessments of media reaction to EMSC and CESG (Chapter 5); and

(g) conveying promptly to HKOMAC and SB/EMSC the substance of rumours about incidents at the GNPS/LNPS (Chapter 3).

16.10.3 To perform the above tasks, DIS will, as detailed in Chapter 5 -

(a) set up the CIC;

(b) open the Press Briefing Centre and arrange for press briefing; and

(c) ensure that all major press releases are cleared by S for S, and ensure that other press releases are in line with the strategy laid down by CESG.

Water Supplies Department (WSD)

16.11 The Director of Water Supplies is responsible for the following -
(a) ensuring, as far as practicable, that water supplies remain safe and fit for consumption (Chapter 9);

(b) monitoring water imported from Guangdong, in impounding reservoirs, entering and leaving treatment works and in water catchment areas and consumer taps (Chapter 9);

(c) considering the application of countermeasures such as -

(i) arranging for water to be drawn preferentially from non-contaminated or least contaminated sources;

(ii) adjustment of treatment processes to reduce radioactivity; and

(iii) water rationing (Chapter 9);

(d) ensuring that adequate water is supplied to MCs (Chapter 8); and

(e) monitoring of sludge at water treatment works and arrange disposal of the sludge according to the Waste Disposal Action Plan (Chapters 9 and 10).

**Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS)**

16.12 The Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service is responsible for the following -

(a) setting up in situ MCs for monitoring incoming persons and conveyances where necessary (Chapters 7 and 8);

(b) control and manning of MCs (Chapter 8);

(c) assisting in the disposal of contaminated items arising from the MCs in accordance with the Waste Disposal Action Plan (Chapters 8 and 10); and

(d) assisting DH, HA and FSD by providing medical supporting services such as distribution of thyroid blocking agents.

**Civil Aid Service (CAS)**

16.13 The Chief Staff Officer, Civil Aid Service is responsible for the following -

(a) assisting HKO in the collection of samples from HKO monitoring stations and designated fire stations and transporting these samples to the King's Park Radiation Laboratory or other laboratories for analysis (Chapter 4);
(b) liaising with GLD for providing transport and deploying CAS personnel to escort Ping Chau residents who are not being contaminated from evacuation discharge points to LCSD’s holiday camps for temporary re-housing;

(c) assisting AMS by providing marshalling and crowd control outside MCs, and assisting in setting up MCs where necessary (Chapter 8);

(d) manning the supply of additional water and exit hoses established by FSD for the MCs (Chapter 8);

(e) liaising with GLD for providing transport and deploying CAS personnel to escort contaminated person (with no injury) from –

(i) evacuation discharge points and points of entry to MCs (Chapters 6 and 7);

(ii) the points of entry and MCs to Emergency Radiation Treatment Centres (ERTCs) at designated hospitals (Chapters 7 and 8);

(f) deploying Liaison Officer to EMSC and providing dispatch services for EMSC during the emergency, if required (Chapter 2); and

(g) providing such other assistance as may be required.

**Civil Aviation Department (CAD)**

16.14 The Director-General of Civil Aviation is responsible for the following -

(a) ensuring that aircraft in flight are kept at least 25 km away from the GNPS/LNPS;

(b) approving, after consultation with SB, the overflight of Hong Kong by PRC aircraft monitoring the plume (Chapter 14); and

(c) maintaining the operation of the airport and ensuring priority is given to emergency flights of equipment or personnel to assist in radiological decontamination in Hong Kong or in Guangdong (Chapters 6 and 14).

**Civil Service Bureau (CSB)**

16.15.1 The Secretary for the Civil Service is responsible for issuing general guidelines to bureaux/departments for reference and compliances for the
radiological protection of those operational staff whose duties specified under the DBCP. In times of a nuclear incident affecting Hong Kong, CSB would also relay to bureaux/departments any health guidance from DH and any specific guidelines for employers/employees on the nuclear incident from LD so that bureaux/departments can adjust their safety measures as necessary.

16.15.2 The Principal Official Languages Officer in the Official Languages Division (OLD) is responsible for sending qualified persons to EMSC to provide translation and/or interpretation services where necessary.

**Customs and Excise Department (C&ED)**

16.16 The Commissioner of Customs and Excise is responsible for the following -

(a) monitoring goods imported to detect any radiological contamination (Chapter 7);

(b) monitoring of lorries and lorry drivers arriving at the land Boundary Control Points for radiological contamination (Chapter 7);

(c) providing services for facilitating the passage of cross-boundary assistance agencies (Chapter 14);

(d) assisting, if necessary, in evacuation of persons on Ping Chau and those in Hong Kong territorial waters in Mirs Bay within 20 km of the GNPS/LNPS (Chapter 6); and

(e) disposal of contaminated items arising from the control operations at points of entry in accordance with the Waste Disposal Action Plan (Chapter 10).

**Department of Justice (DoJ)**

16.17 The Secretary for Justice will ensure, through the appropriate Law Officers, that -

(a) legal advice is given on the necessity for making the Emergency (Radiological Contamination) Regulation, which has been pre-drafted (Chapter 12); and

(b) other legal advice is given as required; if necessary, a liaison officer will be deployed to EMSC.
Drainage Services Department (DSD)

l6.18 The Director of Drainage Services is responsible for the following-

(a) ensuring that the exit water from MCs is adequately drained away during the operating hours of such centres (Chapter 8); and

(b) proper collection and disposal of contaminated sludge, screenings and grits removed from sewage pumping stations and sewage treatment works (Chapter 10).

Education Bureau (EDB)

l6.19.1 The Secretary for Education (SED) is responsible for -

(a) liaising with the Director of Information Services (DIS) in order that

(i) DIS can keep the SED informed of all government statements and advice; and

(ii) SED can convey to DIS any relevant information or announcements that he considers necessary;

(b) passing on appropriate advice to students, parents, schools and educational institutions (including examination authorities); and

(c) keeping schools and educational institutions open so that students may remain there as necessary.

l6.19.2 The procedures to be adopted by EDB will be broadly similar to those adopted for natural disasters.

Environmental Protection Department (EPD)

l6.20 The Director of Environmental Protection is responsible for the following -

**Disposal of contaminated waste**

(a) providing advice and technical support on the disposal of contaminated waste; the Waste Disposal Action Plan, written by EPD, includes details of where and how to dispose of such waste (Chapter 10);

(b) seeking advice from DH on human health relating to the disposal of radioactive waste (Chapter 10); and
**Marine Water Monitoring**

(c) collecting marine water samples at designated water sampling points and LCSD’s gazetted beaches (Chapter 4).

**Fire Services Department (FSD)**

16.21 The Director of Fire Services is responsible for the following -

**Radiation Monitoring**

(a) assisting HKO in the monitoring and sampling of the level of atmospheric radioactivity at designated fire stations (Chapter 4);

**At points of entry**

(b) conveying injured persons, who may also be radioactively contaminated and requiring medical attention, to ERTCs in hospitals by ambulance (Chapter 7);

**MCs**

(c) on instruction from EMSC, and with assistance of AMS and LCSD, arranging for the setting up of MCs (Chapter 8);

(d) conveying injured persons, who may also be radioactively contaminated and requiring medical attention, to ERTCs in hospitals by ambulance (Chapter 8);

**Other services**

(e) undertaking rescue operation, if necessary, in the evacuations for Ping Chau (Chapter 6);

(f) undertaking decontamination measures where calamities are involved;

(g) providing cross boundary assistance if considered necessary by the S for S (Chapter 14); and

(h) providing a Liaison Officer to EMSC (Chapter 2).

**Government Flying Service (GFS)**

16.22 The Controller, GFS is responsible for the following -

(a) assisting in the evacuation operations for Ping Chau and any specific areas in the territory as requested by PHQCCC (Chapter 6);
(b) notification of the public in remote areas and vessels in Mirs Bay of the emergency at the GNPS/LNPS using mobile public address systems if deemed necessary by EMSC, on advice from HKOMAC (when equipment is available) (Chapter 6);

(c) providing a fast means of checking abnormal instrument readings at Radiation Monitoring Network stations; transporting monitoring teams deployed by HKOMAC and WSD; carrying samples urgently needed by HKOMAC (Chapter 4);

(d) aerial operations to locate and track any radioactive plume and locate contaminated ground surface in conjunction with HKO (Chapter 4); and

(e) providing assistance for aerial observations by the Police of traffic conditions.

Government Laboratory (GL)

16.23 The Government Chemist is responsible for the following -

(a) providing analytical services to HKOMAC, FEHD and AFCD to determine the levels of radioactive contamination in food samples (Chapters 4 and 9);

(b) providing analytical services to WSD to determine Sr-90 contamination in water samples upon request; and

(c) if necessary, the provision of 24-hour analytical facilities.

Government Logistics Department (GLD)

16.24 The Director of Government Logistics is responsible for the following -

(a) maintaining an inventory of government vehicles which could be used in an emergency;

(b) providing, on request from EMSC, vehicles to assist in -

(i) moving Ping Chau and Mirs Bay evacuees (Chapter 6);

(ii) moving contaminated persons from the points of entry to MCs;

(iii) moving contaminated persons from MCs to ERTCs at designated hospitals (Chapter 8); and
(iv) liaising with GLD contractors and other transport service providers to secure the supply of hired vehicles for transporting uncontaminated persons if there are insufficient government vehicles.

(c) maintaining a directory of radiological monitoring equipment and consumables (with the assistance of HKO and other key departments in the DBCP);

(d) maintaining a pool of emergency items as back-up supply to operational departments required under the DBCP; and

(e) arranging urgent procurement of non-standard stores in an emergency.

Home Affairs Department (HAD)

16.25 The Director of Home Affairs is responsible for the following -

(a) serving as an interface between central government and District Offices by -

(i) acting as the Disaster Relief Coordinator working through the headquarters emergency control centre and the District Officers;

(ii) ensuring all District Office staff are kept fully informed of the situation by relaying situation reports requested by the EMSC; and

(iii) conveying to EMSC reports from the District Offices on public reaction to the emergency (Chapter 5);

(b) reporting rumours to ISD who will, in liaison with EMSC, prepare appropriate authoritative media releases to deal with the situation (Chapter 5);

(c) working in liaison with LCSD for the temporary accommodation of Ping Chau residents at the LCSD’s holiday camp(s);

(d) working with SWD and CAS to ensure that shelter and care is provided for all those in need; and

(e) HAD should provide a liaison officer when requested by EMSC. This liaison officer should also be used to fulfill the DHA’s role as the Disaster Relief Coordinator.
Hospital Authority (HA)

16.26 The Chief Executive of Hospital Authority is responsible for the following -

**ERTCs (Chapter 8)**

(a) providing facilities in the Accident and Emergency Department and designated wards of specific hospitals to treat patients and casualties who have been contaminated in the emergency;

(b) providing facilities for monitoring internal contamination and treatment to government operational staff and members of the public when considered necessary; and

(c) formulating plans to safeguard the health of patients and staff in hospitals during the emergency.

Immigration Department (ImmD)

16.27 The Director of Immigration is responsible for the following -

(a) supporting AMS in setting up and running MCs at the points of entry where necessary (Chapter 7);

(b) providing assistance to Hong Kong residents outside Hong Kong in accordance with the contingency plan for Emergency Response Operations Outside the HKSAR (Chapter 15); and

(c) providing services for facilitation of cross-boundary assistance agencies (Chapter 14).

Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

16.28 The Director of Leisure and Cultural Services is responsible for -

(a) making available and opening designated premises as MCs (Chapter 8);

(b) assisting in collection and removal of contaminated and radioactive waste at MCs under the guidance of EPD (Chapter 10);

(c) working in liaison with HAD, SWD and CAS for the temporary accommodation of Ping Chau residents who are not being contaminated at LCSD’s holiday camp(s); and

(d) assisting EPD to collect marine water samples at designated gazetted beaches (Chapter 4).
Marine Department (MD)

16.29 The Director of Marine is responsible for the following -

(a) ensuring that vessels entering, leaving, or in Hong Kong waters are aware of the emergency (Chapter 3);

(b) assisting, if necessary, in evacuation of persons on Ping Chau and those in Hong Kong territorial waters in Mirs Bay within 20 km of the GNPS/LNPS (Chapter 6); and

(c) directing suspected radiologically contaminated vessels to the anchorage point at the southwest of Lamma Island for monitoring (Chapter 6).

Post Office (HKPO)

16.30 The Postmaster General is responsible for the following -

(a) taking over postal article found contaminated (Chapter 7); and

(b) decontaminating or disposal of contaminated items arising from the control operations at points of entry in accordance with the Waste Disposal Action Plan (Chapter 10).

Social Welfare Department (SWD)

16.31 The Director of Social Welfare is responsible for providing essential relief items including food and blankets to the evacuees from Ping Chau and persons relocated from remote areas while they are staying in temporary accommodation.

Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA)

16.32 The Director-General of Telecommunications is responsible for the following -

(a) promptly relaying the possible Telecommunication Network Congestion Warning to the telecommunication network operators upon receipt of notification of a disaster or major emergency, monitoring the status of the networks, and ensuring quick recovery by operators in case of service disruption;

(b) ensuring that designated radio channels for use during any emergency are free from interference caused by radio transmissions; and
(c) coordinating with the mobile network operators on the request of SB on the dissemination of time-critical Government announcements by Short Message Service in accordance with the established procedures as given in the General Circular 6/2008 – Public Announcement by Short Message Service.

**Transport Department (TD)**

16.33 The Commissioner for Transport is responsible for the following-

(a) keeping all public transport operators informed of the situation, and advising them whether a need exists for special transport arrangements to be provided;

(b) assisting, if necessary, in the evacuation of the public from Ping Chau in Mirs Bay and their dispersal in the urban areas (Chapter 6);

(c) co-ordinating the deployment of public transport resources in an emergency; and

(d) disseminating information about emergency traffic and public transport arrangements.