

## Proper Use of Fire Fighting Hose Reels in Buildings

### Fire fighting system – The purpose of its installation in buildings

The purpose of installing fire fighting systems in buildings is to protect the lives and properties of the residents by providing a convenient point to obtain water for fire fighting.

### Fire fighting system – The proper way of installation of hose reels

The fire fighting system of a building comprises pumpsets, sump or roof tanks, pipeworks, sprinklers, hydrants and hose reels.

The use of the fire fighting hose reels is most often abused. The fire hose reel outlets should be properly housed in glass-fronted cabinet secured under lock and key.

### Fire fighting system – Responsibility of repair and maintenance

The operation and maintenance of the fire fighting system of a building are under the care of the management office or incorporated owners, or in case of public housing estates, Housing Department. Common examples of poor maintenance include missing outlet, glass broken and unlocked.

### Fire fighting system – Common illegal usage

The most commonly found examples of illegal uses of the fire fighting system is to use the water for purpose other than fire fighting, e.g. car washing or floor cleansing, etc.

### Consequence of illegal practice

A fire fighting system could be rendered ineffective by illegal usages. If the water stored in the fire service roof tank is used up by illegal usages and when the pumpsets supplying water to the roof tank is not functioning properly during a fire, the consequence could be very serious with loss of lives and properties.

### Offence under law and punishment

Under the Waterworks Ordinance, except with the permission of the Water Authority, no person shall take water through a fire service for any purpose other than for fire fighting. Any person who contravenes the provision shall be guilty of a criminal offence and be liable on summary conviction to a fine of HK\$25,000. The offender shall also be liable to pay a charge for the water so taken or diverted. Any person convicted of the offence shall, if it is a continuing one, be liable to a further fine of HK\$1,000 for every day during which the offence continues.

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