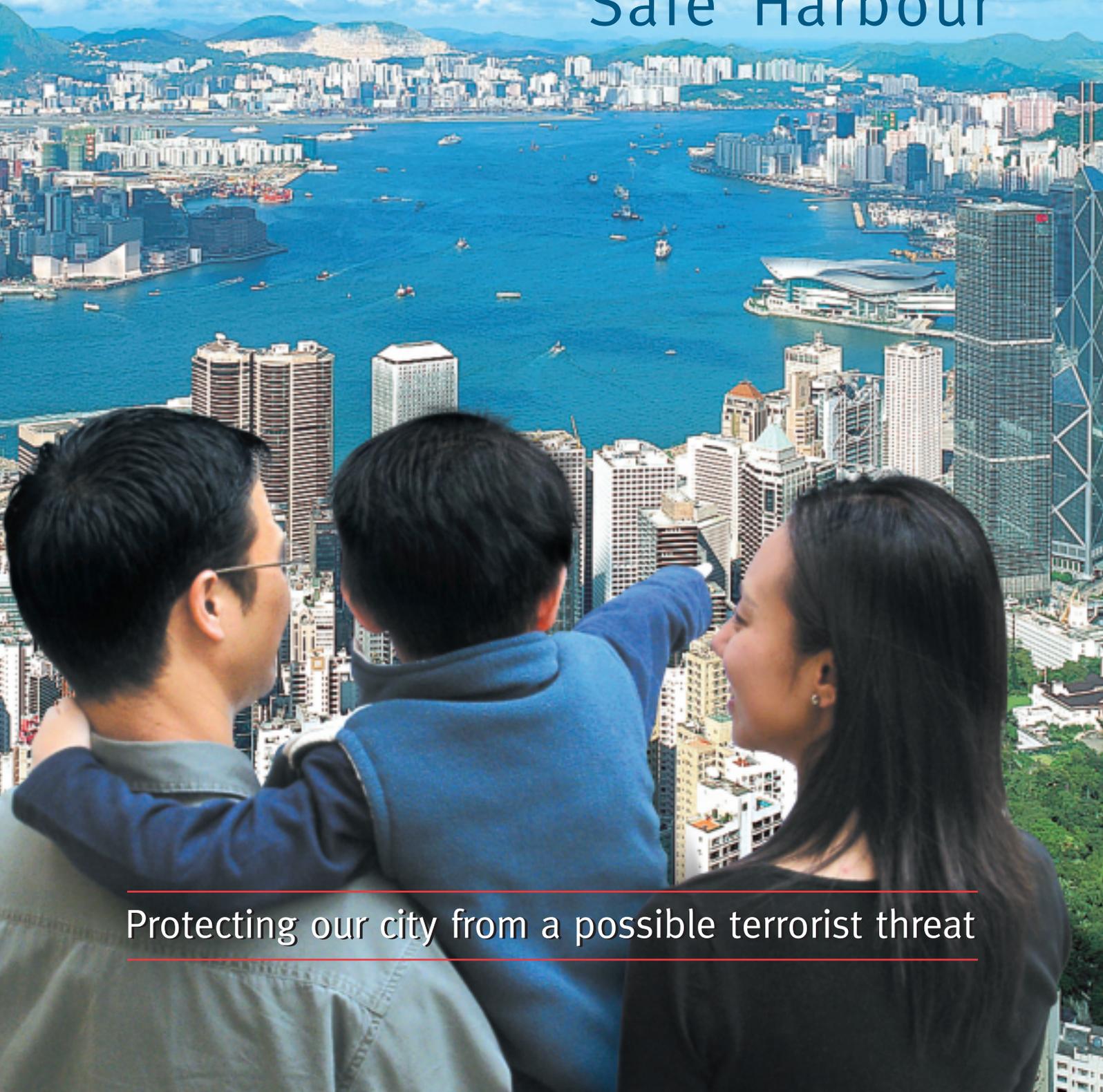




中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China

Hong Kong

Safe Harbour



Protecting our city from a possible terrorist threat

Be alert, not alarmed

Here in Hong Kong we have long enjoyed an enviable level of safety and security. However, as an international city we cannot ignore global trends. The threat of a terrorist attack on Hong Kong may be low, but in order to continue enjoying our peaceful way of life and protect those we love, we must be prepared and stay alert.



This booklet is just one part of your Government's commitment to keeping you informed about what has been done, and is being done, to protect Hong Kong from a possible terrorist threat and to let everyone know about:

- Counter-terrorism measures already in place;
- How we can all play a part in protecting our city and our way of life;
- Who you should contact in the event that you see or hear anything suspicious; and
- What you should do in an emergency.

You may already be familiar with much of the advice in this booklet, but I believe that it is worth reinforcing. After all, common sense and following established procedures are two of our most effective defences against terrorism. In addition, the information will help protect you and your family when travelling abroad and in "everyday" emergencies such as fires.

We all have a part to play in the fight against terrorism. You can play your part by reading, considering, and acting on the information in this booklet. It could save your life and the lives of your family and neighbours.

Remember - be alert, not alarmed.

Yours truly,
John K. C. LEE
Secretary for Security

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For Urgent Assistance Telephone '999'

Security Bureau Website - www.info.gov.hk/sb/

Be alert, not alarmed

What our Government has been doing to keep Hong Kong safe

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has always taken our security seriously. Our counter-terrorism capability is highly professional, but to remain effective we need to respond to changing global circumstances. To achieve this the Government has:

Upgraded Police capability by:

- Organising additional deployments to help guard against terrorism, including additional officers deployed at key facilities and additional patrols at sensitive locations.
- Conducting an extensive review of terrorism response plans and adapting them to the changing environment.
- Having closer liaison with overseas and Mainland law enforcement agencies.
- Increasing training and operational readiness for counter-terrorism units.



Improved air travel security by:

- Increasing baggage and passenger screening.
- Providing more uniformed and plainclothes police officers at airports.
- Restricting the items allowed in cabin baggage.



Improved border controls by:

- Providing additional border and maritime patrols.
- Acquiring new equipment to detect fake passports.
- Introducing new customs facilities, including container vehicle scanning machines, to better detect suspect items.

Upgraded emergency services response by:

- Introducing new equipment, large scale exercises and further specialist training so that our emergency services can deal more effectively with new threats such as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attack.
- Ensuring that stockpiles of drugs are in place at hospitals and with the Department of Health.

What we can all do to help keep Hong Kong safe

Keep yourself informed, be involved

It is important that you keep up to date with the news. The HKSAR Government uses television, radio, newspapers and the Internet to provide timely and useful information and advice.

Keep an eye out for anything suspicious

Public vigilance has saved countless lives in a number of incidents worldwide. The people who live and work in a neighbourhood are often best able to spot things that are out of the ordinary.

As you go about your daily life, keep an eye out for anything unusual or suspicious. Whether or not something is suspicious will depend on the circumstances. Consider the advice given later in this booklet and be guided by common sense.

If you see or hear anything suspicious, inform the police. This will allow them to provide an effective and timely response.

Protect yourself and others

In advance, agree on a safe location well away from where you live where all your family members will be able to meet up should an emergency situation make it impossible for you to go home. It is sensible to keep a torch and a battery powered radio readily available. Make sure you are familiar with the emergency and evacuation plans for your building. If you are unsure, ask the building supervisor or security staff. Check that the emergency exits are clear of obstructions. Check that the fire extinguishers are in working order, and that you know how to use them.

If you run a business or manage a large building, review your security measures and emergency and evacuation plans. Conduct regular drills and ensure all building users know what to do. If you have security cameras, ensure they are maintained regularly as they may provide valuable information on terrorist activity.

Consider joining one of the voluntary organisations which help our community. The contact details of some of these organisations can be found below.

Auxiliary Medical Service - for enquiries telephone 27622033

Civil Aid Service - for enquiries telephone 28056020

St. John's Ambulance - for enquiries telephone 25244888

Bomb incidents

Most terrorist incidents involve the use of explosives. By following some simple guidelines, the risk of someone placing a bomb on your premises will be significantly reduced.



Access control

It is important to know and regulate the people entering your property. You can do this by introducing simple security measures such as:

- Installing locking devices, swipe cards or proximity readers at entrances and exits.
- Setting up a manned guarding facility or reception area.
- Establishing and enforcing a staff identity card system.
- Searching the hand baggage and luggage of those entering the facility, if an identifiable threat exists.

Good housekeeping

- Keep your property and workplace tidy. This will make it easier to spot something that is out of place.
- Do not leave items, such as boxes or baggage unattended where they may cause alarm to others.
- Remove rubbish from storage areas and evacuation routes.
- Consider removing rubbish bins from sensitive locations.

Suspicious objects

The most common type of “suspicious object” is something left unattended. When deciding whether or not to report it to the police you should consider the location, the time, and the appearance of the object, the smell and any noise coming from it.

Bombs may also be delivered by post. The most obvious signs that a postal package may contain a bomb are :

- The package is from an unknown source.
- There may be grease marks on the envelope or wrapping.
- There may be an unusual smell.
- There may be wires or foil visible.
- The package may feel heavy for its size or unevenly heavy.
- There may be excessive wrapping or postage.
- The address may be poorly written or typed.
- The address or titles may be wrong or inaccurate.

DO

Stay calm
Consider evacuating the area
Leave doors and windows open
Call 999

DO NOT

Touch the object
Cover the object
Ignore the object

What to do in an emergency

During an emergency watch your television or listen to your radio for information. If you are directly involved, knowing what to do in an emergency makes it easier to keep yourself and those around you safe. Above all - REMAIN CALM. This will allow you to make rational decisions, and will reduce the level of danger for you and those around you.

General advice

- If it is dark, check for damage using a torch. Do not use a naked flame - there could be explosive gas in the air.
- If you smell Town/LPG gas, turn off the main gas valve if it is safe to do so. Evacuate the premises. To avoid a Town/LPG gas explosion, do not switch the lights on or off, use any electrical appliances, or the telephone.
- Check for injuries. Attend to your own injuries first so that you can assist others.
- Ensure your family members and neighbours are safe, especially children, the elderly or those who are living alone.
- Follow the instructions of the emergency services.
- Report to the emergency services when you have reached a safe area away from the incident.
- Call to let someone know when you are safe, but minimise non-essential calls. The telephone lines may become overloaded.

If a bomb explodes

- Protect yourself from falling debris.
- Try to stay away from tall buildings, glass fronted buildings, and parked vehicles.
- Move to an open space or protected area as quickly and calmly as possible.
- Do not form or join a crowd – there may be other bombs in the area.
- Follow the instructions of the emergency services.
- If you have any information that may help, contact the police at once.

If you are caught in a fire

- Smoke and heat rise, so stay low, as close to the floor as possible.
- Use the emergency exits to get out of the premises. Do not use the lift.
- Check doors before opening them - if they feel hot there may be fire on the other side.
- Use a wet cloth to cover your mouth and nose to avoid breathing in any smoke.

After the event

People who are involved in an emergency often have difficulty coping with their emotions afterwards. They can feel a sense of loss, worry, or guilt. In the unlikely event that you are involved in an emergency, talking to others afterwards about the way you feel is a useful way to deal with these emotions. If talking doesn't help, consider speaking with a professional counsellor who will be able to assist.



Chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear threats

The chances of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attack in Hong Kong are low. However, terrorists may use these weapons and it is important you know what to do. Signs that chemical or biological agents have been used include a variety of unexplained symptoms such as difficulty in breathing, headaches, tunnel vision, runny noses, watery eyes, vomiting, skin burns, collapse or sudden loss of consciousness.

- Remain calm. Panic will increase your rate of breathing and blood flow.
- Protect your respiratory system. Breathe as little as possible and try to cover your mouth and nose with a cloth or something similar.
- Leave the area immediately and stay in a safe place waiting for the arrival of emergency personnel. Do not remove any object as it may be contaminated.
- If possible, turn off the air conditioning.
- Try to minimise contact with other people.
- Do not rub affected areas, especially eyes.
- If emergency services have not already been alerted, call '999'.
- Take off your clothes as soon as possible and wash yourself with soap and water. This will remove agents from your skin and reduce their effect.
- Follow the instructions given by emergency personnel.
- You may need to undergo decontamination procedures. These procedures have been tried and tested.
- Stockpiles of drugs are in place at hospitals and the Department of Health.



Essential first aid

THE SIX KEY STEPS

If someone is injured, these six steps will help keep everyone at the scene as safe as possible until professional help arrives:

1. Make sure the situation is safe (e.g. keep clear of power lines, gas, smoke and fire).
2. If the injured person is unconscious and not responding, or if the incident has not otherwise been reported, call 999 immediately and ask for an ambulance.
3. Remove any blockage to the airway (e.g. loosening the neck-tie). If the person is not breathing or conscious, commence cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) provided that you or any other bystanders have the necessary skill.
4. Attend to severe bleeding or shock, then care for burns and injuries to muscles, bones and joints (see below).
5. Monitor the injured person's condition while waiting for professional assistance to arrive.
6. Help the person rest in the most comfortable position and give reassurance.

Bleeding

- Cover the wound with a dressing or clean cloth and apply direct pressure.
- Encourage the person to lie down.
- Raise the injured part above the level of the heart unless you suspect a broken bone.
- Cover the dressing with a bandage to hold it in place.
- If the bleeding does not stop, apply additional dressings, bandages or pads on top of existing ones.

Injuries to muscles, bones and joints

- Rest the injured part. Avoid movements that cause pain.
- Immobilise the injured part before moving the victim or giving additional care.
- Apply ice or a cold pack to reduce swelling and pain.
- Raise the injured area to slow the flow of blood and reduce swelling.

Burns

- Cool the burn with plenty of clean, cold water (unless the burns are charred, whitish or deep).
- NEVER apply ice for cooling.
- Do not break blisters.
- Gently remove rings, watches, belts or tight clothing.
- Cover burned areas with dry, clean, non-stick dressings or cloth.
- Treat for shock as required.

Shock

- Keep the victim from getting either cold or overheated. If possible, provide blankets or overcoats to keep the victim warm.
- Raise the legs about 30 cm if you do not suspect broken bones.
- Do not give food or drink.
- Monitor the level of consciousness of the victim and report the condition to the ambulance personnel when they arrive.

Frequently asked questions

Is Hong Kong a terrorist target?

- Every country and city is potentially a terrorist target. No specific threat has been made against Hong Kong.
- As with all countries and cities around the world, Hong Kong has been on a heightened alert since 11th September, 2001.
- Security and intelligence agencies constantly monitor all available information. If a specific threat is found, you will be informed.

How long will Hong Kong be on a heightened alert?

- For as long as the general threat exists. It is unlikely that the relaxed levels we saw before 11th September, 2001 will return in the near future.

How likely is a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attack by terrorists?

- The likelihood of such an attack on Hong Kong is low.
- Preparations were made in Hong Kong well before 11th September, 2001 to address the problems an attack would create.
- Stockpiles of drugs are in place at hospitals and the Department of Health.

What is being done to protect Hong Kong from terrorism?

- Hong Kong has a large well-trained and well-equipped police force.
- Emergency services conduct realistic exercises and regularly train together.
- The Government has always had contingency plans for a wide range of terrorist activities. These plans are constantly reviewed and updated in the light of current threats.
- By remaining alert but not alarmed, you will contribute directly to the Government's efforts.

How does the heightened alert affect me?

- There is no reason to alter your daily routine. By dramatically altering our way of life when there is no credible threat, we give the terrorists an easy victory.
- You may experience some slight delays due to increased security checks.
- There is no need to avoid crowded areas. If specific threats are made against locations or events, you will be informed.

How can I recognise a terrorist?

- A terrorist is recognised by his or her actions, not by his or her race, colour or religious belief.
- If you see anybody acting in a suspicious manner, call 999 and ask for the police.

What can I do to help?

- Make sure that you and your family follow the advice in this booklet.
- Stay alert, not alarmed.