



**SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE
MEDIA BRIEFING – FIRE AND AMBULANCE STATISTICS FOR 2008**

TOPIC 3

**FIRE SAFETY ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS
(JAN – DEC 2008)**

SCDF TAKES FIRM ACTION ON FIRE SAFETY VIOLATIONS

1. SCDF conducts enforcement checks on a regular basis to ensure that fire hazards and violations are detected and rectified. Enforcement actions are also firmly taken when public provides feedback through e-mails, letters and hotline calls. Such information from the public shows the fire safety consciousness of our community and more importantly helps to keep offenders on their toes, enhancing our fire safety environment. Anyone who notices fire hazards may report them to SCDF on 1800-280-0000.
2. Last year, SCDF conducted 11,868 enforcement checks and issued 2100 Fire Hazard Abatement Notices (FHAN). Under the Fire Safety Act, this is a notice to warn building owners and management to remove the hazard. Most common fire hazards spotted resulting in FHANs were poor maintenance of hose reels and fire extinguishers (456 FHANs) which can affect early mitigation of fires by occupants; and obstructed exits (437 FHANs) which can impede evacuation in case of fires.
3. Offenders who failed to rectify the violations after being issued with FHANs were then served with a fine (ie. Notice of Composition) between \$300 and \$500. Last year, 114 fines were issued. SCDF takes a serious view against building management who do not promptly take action to rectify fire safety violations detected during our inspections. For serious cases, court actions may be taken against violators.
4. A Notice of Fire Safety Offence (NFSO) is issued when there is direct contravention of the Regulations, for example: unauthorised fire safety works carried out. It carries with it a composition fine of between \$300 and \$500. Last year saw the issuance of 1005 NFSO after enforcement checks. This is an increase of 152% (606 cases) compared to 2007. See **Table 1**. NFSO for change

of use without approval rose by 431, while that for carrying out fire safety works without approval rose by 131. Stepped-up enforcement checks conducted at industrial premises and residential premises, contributed towards the rise in the issuance of NFSO in 2008.

Type of Offence	2007	2008	Absolute Change
Change of use	188	619	+431
Carrying out fire safety works without approval	104	235	+131
Storage &/or transportation of Petroleum &/or Flammable Materials without licence	45	95	+50
Others*	62	56	-6
Total	399	1005	+606

**Others include offences like failure to obtain Fire Safety Certificate; failure to comply with fire safety guidelines for temporary buildings; & breach of Temporary Permit requirements (TP)*

**TABLE 1: NUMBER OF NOTICE OF FIRE SAFETY OFFENCE
(BREAKDOWN BY TYPE OF OFFENCE)**

COURT PROSECUTION

5. For 2008, there were 35 charges with 18 defendants, involving 20 premises/cases. See **Table 2**. For general fire safety violations, the maximum penalty can be up to \$10,000 and/or jail term not exceeding 6 months. The heaviest penalty that may be meted for fire safety violations is under Section 24 (2) of the Fire Safety Act, i.e. carrying out unauthorised fire safety works. This can carry a maximum penalty up to \$50,000 and/or jail term not exceeding 12 months. On 17 Oct 2008, the owner of a 10-storey service apartment building in the Kiliney Road area was fined \$20,000 for carrying out unauthorised fire safety works.

Description	2007	2008
Unauthorised change of use	1	10
Unauthorised fire safety works		9
Occupied premise without Fire Certificate		2
Failure to obtain Fire Safety Certificate		7
Others*	1	7
Total	2	35

**Others include offences like failure to comply with Temporary Permit conditions; Transporting LPG in excess of exemption quantity without licences; Supplying of LPG to unlicensed premises; Unauthorised LPG storage; Obstruction to exit & fire-fighting facilities including fire engine access way; Storage of flammable in a negligent manner; and Overcrowding.*

TABLE 2: COURT PROSECUTION CASES