



SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE

FIRE SAFETY ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS
(JAN – DEC 2005)

1. SCDF conducts enforcement checks on a regular basis to ensure that fire hazards and violations are detected and rectified. Last year, SCDF served 409 Fire Hazard Abatement Notice (FHAN). This is a fall of 402 (50%) in numbers from the 811 FHAN issued in 2004. See **Table 1**.

| Nature of Hazard | 2004 | 2005 | Absolute Change | % Change |
|--|-------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Firefighting equipment (hosereel/fire extinguisher) not properly maintained | 241 | 104 | -137 | -57 |
| Obstruction to exits | 102 | 66 | -36 | -35 |
| Storage of combustible (eg. furniture) / flammable (eg. LPG cylinder) materials | 86 | 62 | -24 | -28 |
| Exit signs out of order | 61 | 31 | -30 | -49 |
| Storage within staircase /hosereel /risers | 81 | 26 | -55 | -68 |
| Indiscriminate storage & display of goods/items | 66 | 20 | -46 | -70 |
| Fire alarm system not properly maintained | 22 | 20 | -2 | -9 |
| Locked exits | 12 | 11 | -1 | -8 |
| Storage along perimeter fencing | 121 | 11 | -110 | -91 |
| Others* (includes non-compliance to approved building plans; engine running while refuelling; etc) | 19 | 58 | +39 | +205 |
| Total | 811 | 409 | -402 | -50 |

TABLE 1: FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICE
(BREAKDOWN BY TYPE OF HAZARD)

2. The sharp drop in the number of FHAN served in 2005 has made last year's figure the lowest since 2001. That year registered 770 FHAN. In terms of percentage, only 4% of the inspections required the issuance of abatement notice. See **Table 2**.

| | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Number of FHAN | 770 | 1459 | 910 | 811 | 409 |
| Number of inspection | 2056 | 10,022 | 10,984 | 11,297 | 10,103 |
| % of FHAN to inspections | 38% | 15% | 8% | 7% | 4% |

TABLE 2: 5 YEAR TREND OF FHAN

3. While it is encouraging that the number of FHAN has dropped significantly over the years, signifying greater level of compliance to fire safety requirements, the 409 cases of hazards detected by the SCDF still warrants attention. Every hazard has the potential to result in fire, causing injuries and damages to properties. Every effort therefore must be taken by members of public to ensure that fire hazards are reduced, thereby lowering fire risks in our environment.

4. A bulk of the number of FHAN served last year was for poor/unsatisfactory maintenance of firefighting equipment such as hoses and fire extinguishers. Despite the drastic drop in FHAN from 241 FHAN in 2004 to 104 last year, it is important to note that such equipment serve as first line defence against an outbreak of fire. Timely use of such equipment can save lives and prevent destruction to properties.

5. Obstruction to exits continued to be a common fire hazard detected during inspections. The number of FHAN last year for exit obstructions fell from 102 to 66. Members of public and building owners/management must recognise that blocking exits can hinder evacuation and access of firefighters/rescuers during emergencies.

6. The next most common hazard resulting in FHAN last year related to storage of combustible and flammable materials. There were 62 such cases in 2005, compared to the 86 cases in 2004. Although the number of FHAN related to such cases saw a fall of 28% (ie. 24 cases), SCDF continues to stress the significance of good housekeeping, including not indiscriminately storing combustibles and flammables within premises which during a fire outbreak, can add significant burning load to worsen the fire.

| Types of premises | 2004 | 2005 | Absolute Change | % Change |
|----------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| Industrial | 552 | 275 | -277 | -50 |
| Commercial | 80 | 51 | -29 | -36 |
| Public entertainment | 65 | 34 | -31 | -48 |
| Others* | 114 | 49 | -65 | -57 |
| Total | 811 | 409 | -402 | -50 |

*Others include residential premises, shophouse, community centres

**TABLE 3: FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICE
(BREAKDOWN BY PREMISES)**

7. The number of FHANs served to premises of all sectors as seen in **Table 3** saw a dip, between 36% and 50%. The biggest drop was for industrial premises, followed by public entertainment premises and commercial premises.

| Type of Offence | 2004 | 2005 | Absolute Change | % Change |
|-----------------|------|------|-----------------|----------|
|-----------------|------|------|-----------------|----------|

| | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Change of use | 47 | 79 | +32 | +68 |
| Carrying out fire safety works without approval | 55 | 59 | +4 | +7 |
| Storage &/or transportation of Petroleum &/or Flammable Materials without licence | 48 | 39 | -9 | -19 |
| Overnight parking (with LPG) | 42 | 29 | -13 | -40 |
| Others* | 33 | 50 | +17 | +52 |
| Total | 225 | 256 | +31 | +14 |

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

**TABLE 4: NUMBER OF FIRE SAFETY OFFENCE
(BREAKDOWN BY TYPE OF OFFENCE)**

8. On the whole, the number of Fire Safety Offence (FSO) issued last year increased by 14% (ie. 31 FSO) compared to 2004. FSO for change of use of premises rose by 32, while that for unapproved fire safety works inched up by 4. See **Table 4**.

| Types of premises | 2004 | 2005 | Absolute Change | % Change |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Industrial | 97 | 126 | +29 | +30 |
| Commercial | 25 | 40 | +15 | +60 |
| Public entertainment | 6 | 1 | -5 | -83 |
| Others* | 97 | 89 | -8 | -8 |
| Total | 225 | 256 | +31 | +14 |

*Others include residential premises, shophouses & community centres

TABLE 5: NUMBER OF FIRE SAFETY OFFENCE (FSO)

9. More industrial and commercial premises were served with FSO last year. See **Table 5**. FSO for public entertainment premises however saw a decline of 5 cases to just 1 FSO throughout the whole of last year. Violators were fined up to \$500 for each of the FSO.

| Types of premises | 2004 | 2005 | Absolute Change | % Change |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Industrial | 22 | 15 | -7 | -32 |
| Commercial | 11 | 4 | -7 | -64 |
| Public entertainment | 1 | 3 | +2 | +200 |
| Others* | 14 | - | -14 | -100 |
| Total | 48 | 22 | -26 | -54 |

*Others include residential premises, shophouses & community centres

**TABLE 6: NOTICE OF COMPOSITION
(BREAKDOWN BY PREMISES)**

10. **Table 6** shows the declining pattern of violators being slapped with Notice of Composition (NOC). NOC for industrial and commercial premises fell by 7 cases each.

Last year. 3 NOC were issued to public entertainment outlets.

11. Under the Fire Safety Act, a FHAN serves as a warning. When the hazard is not abated, a NOC between \$300 and \$500 would be issued – with court action being taken for serious cases. Recalcitrant repeat offenders have dropped markedly, as shown in **Table 6**. For the 409 FHANs served in 2005, there were only 22 instances when NOC had to be issued.

| Types of Premises/Location | 2004 | 2005 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Industrial | 5 | 1 |
| Commercial | 1 | 3 |
| Public entertainment | - | - |
| Others* | - | 3 |
| Total | 6 | 7 |

*Others include roads and car parks

**TABLE 7: COURT CASES
(BREAKDOWN BY TYPE OF PREMISES)**

12. The number of court cases last year was fairly consistent with that of 2004. While more industrial premises were taken to court in 2004, 2005 saw more commercial premises convicted for flouting fire safety requirements. See **Table 7**. **Table 8** gives an indication of the kinds of fire safety offences committed in the last 2 years.

| Type of Offence | 2004 | 2005 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Failure to comply with storage, dispensing &/or transportation of LPG cylinders Eg. Transportation of LPG without valid licence; excessive/unsafe storage of LPG; illegal dispensing of LPG | 1 | 4 |
| Failure to keep in the cabin the original copy of the valid licence to transport petroleum or flammable materials | - | 1 |
| Obstruction to exit & firefighting facilities including fire engine accessway | 1 | 1 |
| Unauthorised change of use | 4 | - |
| Failure to comply with Temporary Permit (TP) conditions for Trade Fair | - | 1 |
| Total | 6 | 7 |

TABLE 8: COURT CASES (BREAKDOWN BY TYPE OF OFFENCE)