

Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



EDITOR'S PICK

FIRE CODE 2023 LAUNCHED

The Code of Practice for Fire Precautions in Buildings 2023, commonly known as the Fire Code 2023, was launched at the annual National Fire and Emergency Preparedness Council Fire Safety Seminar on 25 August. The Fire Code is revised every five years to keep pace with changes in the operating environment and latest best practices.



A key thrust for the Fire Code 2023 is to ensure fire safety amidst a push for sustainability. Thus, some revisions to the Fire Code will help those in the fire safety industry better manage and facilitate a smooth transition towards a sustainable, “green” future. For example, regulations relating to the installation of Electric Vehicle charging stations have been streamlined. Requirements and guidelines have been introduced for building owners who want to install solar photo-voltaic systems.

>> [Read MOS' Speech](#)

>> [Check out SCDF's FB post](#)

In SCDF's mid-year statistics released last week, the first half of 2023 saw 967 fires, a 5.3% increase compared to the same period last year. This was largely due an increase in fires at non-building premises, particularly those involving items discarded at open spaces.

Here are the mid-year statistics for Fire Calls:

	First Half of 2022	First Half of 2023	Comparison
Total Fire Calls	918	967	5.3% Increase
Fire at residential premises	480	493	2.7% Increase
Fire at non-residential premises	238	193	18.9% Increase
Fire at non-building premises (e.g. discarded items/vegetation)	200	281	40.5% Increase

The first half of 2023 saw 27 fires involving Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs) and Power Assisted Bicycles (PABs), an increase from the 22 fires for the same period in 2022.

>> [Read the CD Emergency Handbook](#)

MINISTER ON THE RECENT BILLION-DOLLAR MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

In an interview with Lianhe Zaobao, Minister talked about the recent billion-dollar money laundering case, one of Singapore's largest anti-money laundering operations. Here are the key points discussed:



INVESTIGATIONS WERE TRIGGERED BY SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTION REPORTS

In this case, financial institutions filed Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs), which led to Police investigating and looking into various things based on different pieces of information, the STRs, intelligence and other aspects.

We did not start the investigations at the request of a foreign country or party or because of external pressure. We started investigations because we had reason to believe that these people committed offences in Singapore.

We needed thorough investigations to know that illegal things have happened, before we will take action. After many months of investigations, more than 400 officers conducted the raids on a single day and 10 persons were arrested.

ACTION WILL BE TAKEN IF MONEY IS “NOT CLEAN”

If anyone does anything illegal in Singapore, or do illegal things overseas and then try to launder the criminal proceeds here, action will be taken.

The fact that we identified and took action against a sizeable network and seized a very large amount of assets sends a clear message that we will act firmly against these kinds of illegal activities in Singapore.

COURTS DECIDES HOW ASSETS ARE DEALT WITH



The money and assets seized here will be dealt with in the same way that they are dealt with in other cases. If the subject is found guilty and these assets are traced to criminality, the courts will identify the owner and decide how the assets will be dealt with.

SINGAPORE HAS ROBUST ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING CONTROLS

We have to be very strict, to ensure people do not abuse our financial system or use Singapore to launder money. We have to uphold our reputation as a place with trusted, sound regulation, good governance and strong rule of law.

The Financial Action Task Force, a global body that sets standards and oversees efforts to combat money laundering and financing of terrorism, had also concluded previously that Singapore has strong licensing controls, strong detection and supervision, good coordination between agencies, good sharing of data and financial intelligence, swift and firm law enforcement when criminal activities are uncovered.

>> [Read the Transcript](#)

MINISTER DISCUSSES DISCRIMINATION

Minister K Shanmugam spoke in depth on racial, religious and workplace discrimination on Berita Harian's podcast #NoTapis. Here are the key issues discussed.



RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE HOME TEAM

From January 2019 till date, HT officers reported six alleged cases of racial discrimination. After investigations, three cases were substantiated and action was taken. The other three were not substantiated.

Minister noted that the MHA system sets a strong face against racial and religious discrimination. From when an officer is inducted, officers are made to understand that discrimination in any form is unacceptable.

Any possible systemic discrimination would have surfaced through the regular anonymous surveys conducted, such as the employee engagement surveys.

Besides ensuring no systemic discrimination, if there were reports of racist individuals, MHA would "investigate and take action". Officers have "a right to complain and complaints will be confidential". They can complain to any level, even directly to the Head of Civil Service.

ON THE LATE SERGEANT UVARAJA'S CASE

Minister referred back to Police's statement on the case, that Police had been trying to help Uvaraj through counselling and various other types of assistance. "We will look at everything he has said and we will give an account and then the public can have a better sense. We will deal with this seriously," said Minister.

THE STATE OF RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION IN SINGAPORE

Minister's view is that there is an advantage to being part of the majority race in Singapore. There is, however, no positive or negative discrimination in favour of one race or another.

This is achieved through a mix of laws that spell out what is not permissible and a framework for people to understand each other across races and live with each other in harmony and work together.

However, race relations will always be a work in progress. Minister urged everyone to have continuous discussions on race and be mindful to ensure everyone feels comfortable during such discussions.

>> [Read the Transcript](#)

LEADERS IN CRISIS GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME

As part of its ongoing mission to deepen the expertise of senior Public Service leaders in dealing with crises, the Home Team Academy (HTA) developed the new annual Leaders in Crisis Governance Programme (LCGP) by incorporating the good practices and key learning points identified from Singapore's management of the COVID-19 pandemic, and inputs from members of the new Crisis Management Training Steering Committee (CMTSC) chaired by Chief Executive, HTA, Mr. Anwar Abdullah.



At the inaugural run of LCGP from 14 to 24 August, HTA hosted a series of fireside chats featuring key government personalities such as Minister for Health, Mr. Ong Ye Kung, who gave the participants an insider's look into how crises are managed at the highest level in the Public Service. To get external perspectives on how crises are managed in a global setting, HTA engaged its

strategic partners from the Australian Institute of Police Management and Coventry University to deliver a series of lectures.

Through the delivery of high impact leadership training programmes such as LCGP, HTA aims to develop and elevate the competencies of whole-of-government leaders to be better equipped to lead and steer their organisations in times of crisis.

SPF AND MHA SCHOLARSHIPS AWARD CEREMONY 2023



The SPF and MHA Scholarships Award Ceremony 2023 was held at the Istana on 18 August. Thirty-four scholarships were awarded this year to outstanding individuals who share the Home Team's values and are passionate about our mission to keep Singapore safe and secure.

The HTX Scholarship [formerly known as the MHA Civilian Scholarship (Science & Technology)] was presented for the first time to nine aspiring scientists and engineers. Minister K Shanmugam said in his address that it is **important for the Home Team to attract good, talented people, who are committed to making Singapore a better place**. To attract "capable, promising students who may only become clearer about their career choices while they are in university", MIN announced that from 2024, **mid-term scholarships** will be introduced for the SPF Scholarship and Singapore Merit Scholarship for MHA.

>> [Read Min's Speech](#)

OPENING OF JOO SENG FIRE POST WITH LIFESAVERS CONNECT ZONE



On 5 September, Joo Seng Fire Post which has the first Lifesavers' Connect Zone co-located with it, was officially opened by Minister of State Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim. Lifesavers' Connect Zones are physical spaces where the community can engage in self-directed learning or hands-on practice through interactive kiosks on lifesaving skills such as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, Improvised First Aid Skills, and In-Place Protection procedures.

As part of SCDF's vision to build 'A Nation of Lifesavers', SCDF has established the Lifesavers' Connect Network to deepen public engagement and increase touchpoints for our community to learn emergency preparedness skills. The Lifesavers' Connect Network consists of:

- a) Lifesavers' Connect Zones at Fire Posts;
- b) Lifesavers' Connect Centres at Division Headquarters; and
- c) Lifesavers' Connect Hub at Kallang Fire Station¹ and in future, along Hill Street.

During the event, MOS Faishal highlighted that co-locating the Lifesavers' Connect Zone with a fire post will help to increase SCDF's engagement touchpoints in the heartlands for our community to learn emergency preparedness skills. "I encourage members of the public to come and experience the interactive kiosks. By acquiring emergency preparedness knowledge and skills, we can build a community that is prepared, ready and resilient when faced with an emergency."

>> [Check out MOS's FB post](#)

SCAMS AND CYBERCRIME MID-YEAR STATISTICS

SPF released statistics on the overall scams and cybercrime situation for the first half of 2023 on 13 September. The number of scam and cybercrime cases increased by 69.4% to 24,525 cases, compared to 14,481 cases in the same period in 2022. Scams accounted for 91.1% of these 24,525 cases.



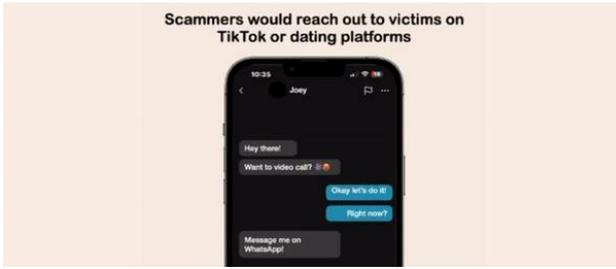
SPF has been working closely with Government agencies and private sector stakeholders to strengthen scam intervention measures to minimise victims' losses. International cooperation with law enforcement agencies is also important as the vast majority of scams are perpetrated from outside Singapore's jurisdiction.

SPF will continue to take a tough enforcement stance, leverage technology and closely collaborate with partners to fight scams.



[>> More Statistics in the Press Release](#)

DATING APP MALWARE SCAM



Soul mate or heart ache? Be cautious when interacting on dating platforms.

>> [Click to watch the video](#)

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Find out what your heart beats for >> go.gov.sg/scdf-230823

TOTAL DEFENCE MURDER MYSTERY ROLE-PLAYING GAME VIDEO SERIES

 **TOTAL DEFENCE SANDBOX**
PRESENTS THE
MURDER MYSTERY ROLE-PLAYING GAME (MMRPG) VIDEO SERIES

MELODY OF WAVES
AN ORIGINAL MURDER MYSTERY ROLE-PLAYING GAME



Check out the new three-part Total Defence MMRPG video series! Through a social deduction game, this video series explores the evolving security threats that Singapore faces such as terrorism, self-radicalisation, and climate change related threats.

Starring celebrities such as Tosh Zhang from *Ah Boys to Men*, DJs Mister Young and Jimmy Koh from *Power 98* and *88.3JIA*, and others, the series follows them as suspects in a fictional crime scene where they cooperate and collect evidence to deduce the murderer's identity.

Scan and watch the entire video series to learn about these issues, and how you can play a part in the fight against terrorism and self-radicalisation!

<https://go.gov.sg/mmrpgvideoserries>

 <https://go.gov.sg/mmrpgvideoserries>

   <https://go.gov.sg/sg101td>   @wearetotaldefence

GOT A MINUTE?

Thank you for reading our HT Connects newsletter! 😊

Any feedback on this month's HT Connects issue? Let us know by scanning the QR Code or email us at MHA_HTVOLUNTEERS@mha.gov.sg!



Have a story to share? Connect with Us



One Home, One Team – Together We Keep Our Home Safe and Secure



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