

## Policy 5B: Typhoons and Rainstorms (Students)

## Policy 5c: Typhoons and Rainstorms (Examinations)

Originator: Roy White	Reviewed by: Roy White & Rick Spadafora, Toby Newton	Approved by: Toby Newton
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### Background

Typhoons, landslips and heavy rain are typical during May to October in Hong Kong. During storms, the risk of accidents increases significantly and public transport near ICHK can become unpredictable and slower than usual. Heavy rain can often be localized to a small area of the territory.

### Policy Objective

The purpose of this policy is to ensure for the safety of all students during periods of inclement weather. It sets out the general procedure.

**The policy and procedures for students sitting examinations is set out in Policy 5C attached.**

### Policy Statement:

The over-riding consideration in all instances of dangerous weather conditions is that students should remain safe either in school or in their homes.

When typhoon or rainstorm warnings are in force, it could be that students on occasion will remain at home during a school day or in school after normal school hours in order to await more favourable weather conditions for travelling.

### Decision Making

Normally, the decision on whether to release students early or close the school will be taken by Head of School after reviewing instructions from the Education and Manpower Bureau. Given the localized nature of disruption caused by adverse weather conditions in our part of the New Territories, the HOS may on occasions need to make decisions in advance of clear guidance from the EDB or HK Observatory. The HOS will also consult with the HK Police at Sha Tau Kok.

### Communication and Information

During inclement weather, television and radio stations post the warnings and there are weather bulletins each half-hour. The Education Department makes announcements about closures. Before school, it is best to listen to radio

RTHK 3 <http://radio3.rthk.org.hk> (AM567, FM106.8, FM97.9, FM107.8). Education Press releases pertaining to school closures can be accessed through <http://www.info.gov.hk>.

## Arrangements during Storms:

### A. TYPHOONS

#### 1.0 Before School Commences:

In general, the following arrangements will apply:

- Hoisting of a No. 1 or No. 3 signal, staff should proceed to ICHK as normal.
- Hoisting of a No. 8 signal or above, the school will not open for the day. As it is likely that transportation routes will be affected, staff should stay at home and work preparing lessons as appropriate. The only staff who will endeavor to be on site will be the Head of School (when it is considered safe and appropriate to be so) and the caretaker (who lives locally). The HOS will be at school just in case a student arrives.

#### 2.0 During School (Number 8 to be hoisted within next two Hours)

When a typhoon is **approaching** during school hours and an announcement has been made by the Hong Kong Observatory that a No. 8 signal will be hoisted within the **next two hours**:

- It is assumed that EMB will close schools and this will be communicated via their web site.
- Once schools are closed, and provided it is safe to do so, the school will implement its contingency plans for rearranging the buses to take students home early (and releasing students taking public transport).
- The school will also begin a staggered release of staff, giving priority to those who may face greater hardship in travelling e.g. those living in remote areas or by public transport.
- Staff will begin to depart after students have been released.
- The general office manager and Head of school will advise all staff to proceed home provided it is safe to do so.

Note: public transportation routes are likely to be affected. The HOS will confirm with the Police that travel is deemed safe.

#### 3.0 During School (Number already 8 Hoisted)

It may be that the speed of events overtakes matters and staff are in School when a **No. 8** signal or higher is hoisted. In such circumstances, it is assumed that EMB will close schools and this will be communicated via their web site.

- Staff should remain in School and classes will continue.
- Once the Number 8 has been lowered, the HOS will confer with the STK Police that travel is safe on the roads.

- The buses will be arranged to take students/staff
- Once students have left the school will begin a staggered release of staff, giving priority to those who may face greater hardship in travelling e.g. those living in remote areas.

## B. RAINSTORMS

1. If an **amber** rainstorm warning is in force at a time before students leave home for school, all students should travel to school as normal. The school buses will be in service. However, as there can be adverse local conditions parents of course can decide whether it is appropriate and safe for students to travel to school. Public transport routes may be disrupted.
2. If a **red** or **black** rainstorm warning is in force at a time before students leave home for school, the EDB will close all HK schools. Students should stay at home. Buses will not be in service.

*Please note that the HK government strongly advises everyone to stay indoors during a Black Rainstorm warning. Driving during a Black Rainstorm signal is extremely dangerous and not advisable.*

3. If a **red** or **black** rainstorm signal is hoisted when the School is in session, students and staff will remain in school until the signals are lowered. Once this occurs:
  - The HOS will consult with the Police at STK to ensure roads in the area are safe.
  - The school will rearrange the buses to take students home (and release students taking public transport).
  - Parents are not advised to come pick up their children during red/black warnings as driving can be dangerous.
  - If possible students taking public transport will be placed on the Fanling/Staff buses to ensure their safe return.

Please note:

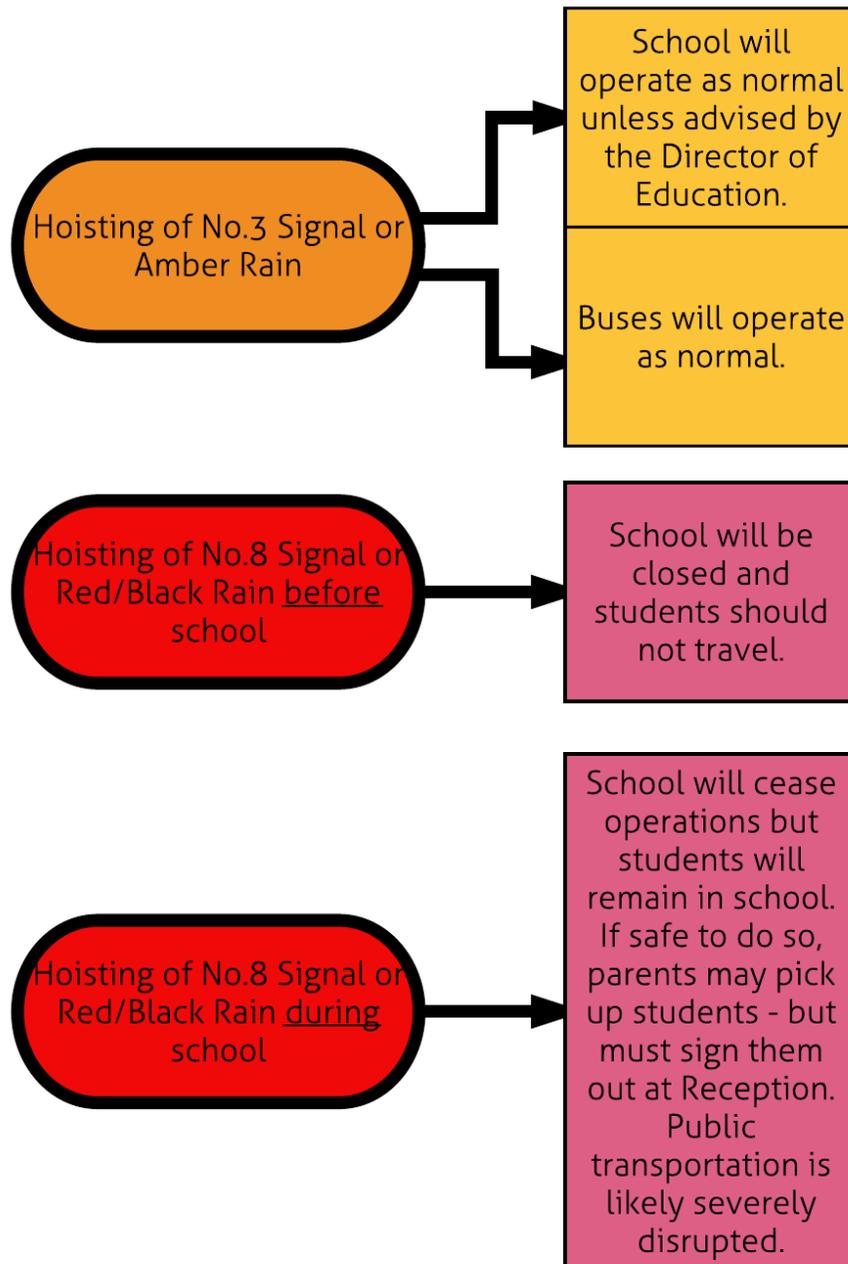
1. *Torrential rainfall can be localized and driving during such conditions can be very dangerous and not advised. Thus, before rearranging buses and releasing students the HOS will discuss conditions with the STK Police.*
2. *Public transport is likely to be severely disrupted.*

## Communication:

*To ensure that students and parents are aware of this policy:*

- *Form tutors will explain procedures to students on first day of term and with new students*
- *HOS will describe policy to all new staff during induction.*
- *The website will also have a copy of the policy*
- *The school website will indicate school closures via a popup message on the landing screen.*
- *An SMS will be sent to all parents*

## Typhoon and Rainstorm Signals and Procedures



## Policy 5c: Typhoons and Rainstorms (Examinations)

**Introduction:** The closure of school does not imply that examinations (external) will continue. Cancellation or deferment of examinations creates administrative difficulties for examination authorities and added to this is the possibility students could pass on information about the examination to other candidates. Hence the decision to postpone or cancel an examination is only done in extreme circumstances.

The following statements and the attached appendix have guided the procedures and policy to take by ICHK.

### FROM EDB:

#### Public Examinations

15. Closure of schools, particularly those used as centres for public examinations, as a result of tropical cyclones or heavy persistent rain does not necessarily imply the postponement of a public examination scheduled for that day. Heads of schools should listen to radio or television announcements made separately by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority regarding arrangements of the public examinations.

**16. Unless an announcement has been made that a public examination is cancelled or postponed, it should be assumed that the examination will continue to be held as scheduled. Schools to be used as examination centres should therefore remain open for examination purposes.**

#### Generally speaking the following will apply at ICHK:

1) Amber Rainstorm Warning or Tropical Cyclone Warning No 3 Signal - exams go ahead

2) Red Rainstorm Warning - unless a specific announcement has been made by the HKEAA that examinations have been postponed due to bad weather conditions, the examinations will be conducted as originally scheduled.

**Students must be made aware that the exams will go ahead unless they are told otherwise (even though their school may be closed because of the red rainstorm warning).**

3) Black Rainstorm Warning or Tropical Cyclone Warning No 8 or above - all examinations will be postponed (hopefully until later that day).

In order for a decision regarding postponement of an examination to be taken the Exams Officer Must consult with the Exams Authority Representative. At the same time we may need to also seek advice from the Police at STK to help inform any decision.

**HKEAA Contact: 3628 8760 / 9310 5625**