



**Extensive
HeartSine AED
News and Media Coverage
in Singapore**

News



Bike to the future

Firefighter on special motorcycle weaves past stranded vehicles to contain blaze

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WHEN a hot caught fire in the Tampines area along the Central Expressway (CTE) on April 24, it caused a massive jam that threatened to snarl hundreds of motorists.

The Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) sent a red dot to send a fire engine to fight the blaze.

Unlike the other stations, they to a give within the 100m jam.

Fortunately, one SCDF firefighter on a three-wheeler or the bike was able to weave past stranded vehicles to get to the site.

And it was thanks to him that the blaze was put under control.

A new addition since April, the three-wheeler facilitates the bike to probably replacing existing two-wheeler bikes.

They are more stable to ride than two-wheeler and are easier to push - a main advantage when responding to emergency calls.

The SCDF currently has 12 three-wheeler and 28 two-wheeler, deployed at 40 locations across Singapore - at all 14 fire stations on the mainland, as well as 26 points.

It aims to equip all the stations and the post with three-wheeler bikes.

Burning taxi

Sergeant Mahamed Shabaz, 25, was the first firefighter to reach the burning taxi on the CTE.

On Friday, he told The New Paper he was the first to arrive at the scene, but several hundred meters from the accident site, he could see thick plumes of smoke emerging from the taxi.

Knowing that his colleagues in the other vehicles would be caught in the jam, he felt pressure to control the blaze alone.

He said: "The responsibility was tremendous. I don't expect I can be there to extinguish it."

When he reached the hot, however, it was engulfed in flames.

He had no idea whether the driver was alive or if there were any passengers in the burning heap of metal.

He used the bike's compressed air system (CAF) system to bring the fire under control.

Sgt Mahamed, who has been with the SCDF since 2008, said: "To fight the fire alone is necessary. At the first one arriving, I also had to tell the others what to expect."

"When everyone else got there, I hit a note of adrenaline - I had managed to stop the fire from spreading."

The fire services and their two-wheeler counterparts have so far been making no impact in extinguishing.

Central Fire Station commander Major Walter Ho said the bikes have boosted SCDF's response time considerably.

Of the 507 medical emergency bikes attended to in April, 37.4 per cent were responded to within 10 minutes.

They are typically the first to arrive at the scene, providing an assessment of the situation.

He said: "The responsibility is more stable on the road, especially in worse weather, as there is smaller chance of



STOCKED
(Left) Sergeant Mahamed Shabaz, 25, standing at the SCDF's medical equipment, including an AED and other pre-arrival first-aid medical equipment.
(Right) Sergeant Shabaz, certified with his gear and three-wheeler fire bike.

sliding. The automatic gear transmission system means passengers can hold on to the sidebars to cling to the vehicle's chassis.

Putting it also make so riders can look like a car and it can park on narrow streets due to a unique suspension system.

The three-wheeler weighs about 200kg with equipment, compared to its two-wheeler counterpart which weighs about 100kg with equipment.

Each bike carry the CAF tank which weight 20kg. Besides fighting fires, the bikes also act as paramedics.

Explosion Major Ho: "We want there to be even more significant than medical emergencies. We intend to visit in medical emergencies, especially in cardiac arrest cases, where every second counts."

Cardiac arrests

The bike was fitted with an automated external defibrillator (AED) and a medical kit to treat those with heart attacks.

To equip bikes with the medical kit, they are attached to ambulance and hospital emergency departments, and have nearby launch as well as full-year maintenance.

Bikes respond to collapse cases, chest pain and heart failure, road traffic accidents, substance abuse and trauma cases.

Sergeant Shabaz like Sgt Inam Hameed, 25, said that while managing members of public was similar to both fire and medical cases, the latter demanded a greater measure of concentration.

Sgt Inam, who has been with the SCDF since 2010, "When you attend a fire, everyone has left - but during medical cases, people crowd around."

He attended his first-line cardiac arrest case on May 1, when a 60-year-old patient collapsed at Block 115, Mandarin Road.

Although the fire bike was sent out with an ambulance, he believed that would be in ambulance fire and before the ambulance arrived.

The patient, a 70-year-old man, was not breathing and did not have a pulse.

At the scene, about 10 worried onlookers, one of whom was female family member, two more elderly patients, and one group of children who were watching.

Sgt Inam said: "Everyone was shouting, someone was praying."

Backing to the man's side to use the AED, Sgt Inam got him to breathe again. When the ambulance arrived, he transferred the patient to the ambulance.

The conscious man was sent to Block 700, East Hospital and was discharged a week ago.

Sgt Inam, who attended to his second cardiac arrest case last Tuesday: "I don't know the man's name or where he lives. It was just an awesome moment for me to know he had survived."



Recent fire biker incident

FIRE tank on fire

On May 6, at about 2.30pm, a tank carrying chemicals caught fire along the Expressway (PE).

Firefighters Sergeant Mahamed Shabaz, 25, and Major Walter Ho, 25, responded together with a fire truck and a fire engine.

The tank driver said it was empty.

The three firefighters brought the fire under control within five minutes.

Sgt Mahamed Shabaz said: "Every incident is 'you never know what to do when you receive a call - whether it's a fire, or if you have to force your way through from your fire truck."

Clamshell flat fire

On May 10, at about 10am, a fire in the rear of a clamshell at a unit at Block 115, Mandarin Road.

Firefighters Sgt Inam Hameed, 25, and Major Walter Ho, 25, responded together with a fire truck and a fire engine.

The clamshell was a fire, cooking temperatures in the room as it closed and call help.

Sgt Inam said: "My priority was to extinguish the fire as quickly as possible so that it did not spread to other parts of the building."



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