

QC govt creates task force on fire prevention

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QUEZON City Mayor Maria Josefina “Joy” Belmonte established a task force on fire prevention that will also partner with the City Council to produce a local fire safety code to reduce the frequency of fires in the city following multiple fire occurrences this month.

The **Task Force on Fire Prevention and Preparedness** is made up of various city government departments as well as utility enterprises, including Meralco and water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad. It will address the city’s primary causes of fire and enable a swift response to fire emergencies.

“We formed a task force to investigate what could be done to prevent future fire accidents in our city as a result of the frequent fires that have occurred there,” Belmonte said.

The mayor also urged QCitizens to practice fire drills and take precautionary measures to avoid fire. “If we take the initiative to figure out how to keep our families and homes safe, we could prevent fires in our community,” Belmonte added.

Councilor Ranulfo Ludovica, who chairs the Committee on Public Order and Safety, will put out the appropriate laws for fire safety and prevention. He emphasized that the majority of recent fire incidents in the city took place in ISF (informal settler families) areas, where narrow roads delayed the arrival of firefighters.

The Community Fire Auxiliary Group, which is anticipated to be among the first to respond to fire incidents in communities, needs additional volunteer firefighters, Belmonte said.

Along with the **Social Services Development Department**, the mayor distributed financial aid to fire victims from Barangay Obrero and Barangay Baesa on Saturday. The city administration rewarded home owners with P10,000 and renters or sharers with P5,000.