

POIC Emergency Mutual Aid volunteers take part in drill

LAHAD DATU: Effective communication is key to dealing with emergencies and can have a direct impact on saving lives.

This was emphasised in a post-mortem of a fire and rescue drill staged by the POIC Emergency Mutual Aid (PEMA) here recently.

About 60 PEMA volunteers, all of them employees of participating companies in the Lahad Datu palm oil industrial cluster (POIC Lahad Datu), took part in the drill conducted with the supervision of the Fire and Rescue Department of Tawau and Lahad Datu.

Fire officer Zulhalim Bin Abidin, also the PEMA coordinator and his team oversaw a 90-minute drill in which PEMA members dealt with a simulated explosion of a fuel tank and rescuing a number of victims.



PEMA members at Sabah Softwoods during the fire drill exercise.

The drill was staged in the compound of the Sabah Softwoods Fertiliser plant, one of the major investors at the state-owned POIC Lahad Datu which was set up in 2015. The industrial park is being developed by government-owned POIC Sabah Sdn Bhd.

In a post-mortem, Zulhalim commended the PEMA members for their enthusiasm and stressed the importance of better communication, coordination and upgrading of rescue skills set.

PEMA was set by POIC Sabah

four years ago to develop an ecosystem through which factories and their workers can work together and optimise each other resources to help each other in emergencies.

Most of the 24-plus companies operating at POIC Lahad Datu are PEMA participants who are trained regularly by Fire and Rescue personnel.

Meanwhile, PEMA is planning a visit to Labuan Emergency Mutual Aid where they hope to learn from and compare notes with similar voluntary efforts on the island.