

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No. 242_Road Traffic Injuries (29 December 2019 – 4 January 2020)

According to the Department of Disease Control (DDC) surveillance for road traffic accident during the new year holidays of last year (27 December 2018 to 2 January 2019), the Department of Natural Disaster Prevention and Control revealed 3,892 injured victims of which 463 had died. January 1, 2018 had the highest number of the injured victims and deaths.

The main risk factor was the drivers' risky behaviors, i.e. drink-driving (40.39%) followed by over-speed-limit driving. The types of vehicles mostly involved were motorcycle followed by pick-up truck. The most frequent time of the accidents was during 4 to 8 p.m.



According to this week disease forecast, the risk of road traffic accidents during the long-holiday celebration of the country is high due to the increase of long distance driving and drivers' risky behaviors.

The Department of Disease Control encourages all road users and motorists to avoid risky behaviors (fast speed driving, drink-driving, drowsy-driving, as well as lacking use of motorcycle helmets, seat-belts and child restraints). Motorists must always carry along the driving license and strictly observe and obey the traffic rules and regulations including the speed limit. Vehicle safety condition should be checked before travelling, i.e. all the main controls (steering, clutch, brake and accelerator), wiper blades, tires, and lights. All motorists should drive slowly and cautiously, leave lots of space from the vehicle in front, i.e. twice as normal and slow down the vehicles before entering the heavy raining or foggy areas.

If motorists feel drowsy, frequent stops for 15 minute naps are crucial. If a long distance driving is planned, another driver should be ready to take turns. Avoid drink-driving by having someone drive for you or use public transport such as taxi instead. There is also an increasing concern over the distracted driving such as the use of mobile phones while driving. Sitting in the open rear area of the pick-up truck has shown a risk of severe injuries or even deaths resulting from falling out of the vehicles.

For queries or additional information, please call DDC hotline 1422.



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