Department of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No. 253_Road Traffic Injuries (15 – 21 March 2020)

Road traffic injuries continue to be the national priority social and health problems causing injuries, deaths, and disabilities. Last year (2019), from the Department of Disease Control (DDC)'s surveillance system, there were 101 road traffic accidents that required investigation.

The incidents can be divided into incidents with 5 deaths or 15 injured persons or more (39), school bus and tourist bus (23), public transportation bus (23), and ambulance (16). The main risk factor was the drivers' risky behaviors, i.e. over-speed-limit driving, abrupt turning, drink–driving, no safety belt driving, and no helmet motorcycle riding.

According to this week disease forecast, the risk of road traffic accidents tends to continue due to drivers' risky behaviors and teenage motorcyclists.

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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.

In case of confronting an accident, please immediately call Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Teams at 1669.

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

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