

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.280_Drowning (27 September - 3 October 2020)

From the Department of Disease Control surveillance system, during 1 – 22 September 2020, there were 10 drowning incidents with 11 deaths compared to 2 incidents with 2 deaths during September 2019. Most of the victims (8 deaths or 89%) were children aged 2 – 14 years. The other 3 victims were those of 38 – 60 years old.

Seven incidents with 8 victims, during 19 – 22 September 2020, occurred in the Northeastern and the upper Central regions in provinces including Nakhonratchasima, Buriram, Loei, Ubonratchathani, Phetchabun and Phitsanulok. The sites of drowning include community water resources, check dams and irrigation canals.

According to this week disease forecast, the risk of drowning tends to continue in areas with heavy rains and flash floods as forecasted by the Department of Meteorology.



The Department of Disease Control warns people to be well aware of the risk and avoid drowning accidents during floods as follows: 1) avoid water related activities in fast-flowing streams, 2) in unavoidable situation, prepare floatation devices such as life jackets, swimming rubber rings, empty plastic gallon jugs or floating dry coconuts for all water related activities, and 3) avoid drinking alcohol during water related activities.

All communities should implement preventive measures against drowning, i.e. 1) survey for risky water sources, 2) communicate and warn the communities of drowning risk and promote community participation using available channels such as village broadcast, 3) install safety fences and warning signs at all risky natural water sources and provide safety devices, e.g. empty plastic gallon jugs or bottles tied up with ropes, swimming rubber rings, sticks, and belts, and 4) do not leave risk groups such as children, the elderly, the disabled and people with chronic medical illnesses unattended.

In case of seeing a drowning person, do not attempt to jump to rescue him or her as the person may be panic and pull you underwater. Therefore, you should use the measure “**shout, throw, and extend**”, i.e. 1) **Shout** for help from people nearby and ask them to call the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) hotline 1669; 2) **Throw** floatation devices such as empty plastic gallon jugs or bottles tied up with ropes or swimming rubber rings to the drowning person; 3) **Extend** objects such as sticks, belts or cloths to pull the person from the water; and 4) Give the person rescue breaths and CPR while waiting for the EMS team.

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

