

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.287_Drowning During Floods (15 - 21 November 2020)

This year during 7 October up to the present, from the Department of Disease Control (DDC)'s disease incident surveillance and the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation's natural disaster report, 93,928 households have been affected by floods and 11 victims (4 in Prachinburi, 3 in Suratthani, and 1 each in Trang, Chanthaburi, Nakhonratchasima, and Sisaket) had died. Causes include being flushed away in flash floods (8 deaths or 73%) and accidentally falling into fast-flowing streams (3 or 27%). At present, floods are still existing in 3 provinces, i.e, Nakhonratchasima, Suphanburi, and Chumphon.

From the Department of Meteorology, it is forecasted that there will be the Vamco typhoon during 15 -16 November causing heavy rainfalls, windy condition and flash floods in the northeastern, central, and northern regions.



The Department of Disease Control warns people to be well aware of the risk and avoid drowning accidents during floods as follows: 1) do not leave risk groups such as children, the elderly, the disabled and people with chronic medical illnesses unattended, 2) avoid drinking alcohol during water related activities, 3) avoid water related activities in fast-flowing streams, 4) prepare floatation devices such as life jackets, swimming rubber rings, empty plastic gallon jugs or floating dry coconuts for all water related activities, and 5) if accidentally fall into water, try to be calm, find the nearest shore, try to float (don't swim) or hug any flotation devices, and wave for help.

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.

