

Department of Disease Control, Weekly Disease Forecast No.22/2021_Chemical Incidents (13 - 19 June 2021)

From the disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control (DDC) reveals 4 chemical incidents in Thailand occurred during 1 January to 9 June 2021, i.e., 2 incidents in February and 1 each in March and June as follows:

1) **Bird banger plant explosion** in Phichit province causing 4 deaths, one missing person and 1 injured, 2) **Garbage disposal pit fire** in Prachinburi province causing smoke problem in households of 1 to 2 kilometers radius surrounding communities, 3) **Ammonia leakage** from an icemaking plant in Satun province causing vaporized toxic gas in the plant with 12 injured people. Most of them had irritation to the nose, mouth, and throat causing coughing, running nose, watery eyes, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, and 4) **Chemical explosions and fire** in an agricultural chemical and equipment shop in Chiang-Mai province with one minor injured person. The chemical agent, Potassium Chlorate, causes respiratory and gastrointestinal tract irritation such as cough, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea. The substance may cause effects on the blood that may result in haemolysis followed by hypoxia (oxygen deficiency). It can also cause kidney impairment.



According to this week disease forecast, there is a continue risk of chemical incidents such as chemical leakage and chemical transport accident which will have health effects on employees, surrounding communities and the environment.

The Department of Disease Control, therefore, encourages enterprise owners with these chemical incident risks to prevent leakage, fire, and bigger accidents by following the safety and health guidelines and regulations, having an emergency and mitigation plan, and conducting periodic training on the emergency plan. Knowledge on hazardous chemicals, safe handling and storage as well as essential safety skills should be provided to employees and involved networks. Safe environment should be ensured including adequate ventilation, in order fire fighting system, clear and signposted emergency exits and periodic maintenance of the equipment. Establish surveillance of incidents for early detection of leakage at critical points, coupled to an alarm system is needed. In case of confronting chemical incidents, please immediately call the emergency medical services (EMS) Hotline 1669 and/or the Department of Pollution Control Hotline 1650.

For queries or additional information, please call DDC Hotline 1442.



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