

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No. 111_Lightning Strike Injuries (4 – 11 June 2017)

According to the national disease system and the injury surveillance among 33 network hospitals during the past 5 years (2011 - 2015), there were 154 victims of lightning strikes of which 36 died. Most victims were male farmers. The incident mostly occurred in the afternoon.

During 2015 - 2016, there were 32 deaths among the 65 injured people. In May 2017, 5 lightning strike incidents caused 6 deaths out of the 42 injured patients.



According to this week disease forecast, the occurrence of lightning strike injuries tends to continue during the rainy season with frequent thunderstorms.

The Department of Disease Control recommends that during thunderstorms people should avoid outdoor activities, staying under tall trees or structures, in open spaces or near equipment that conduct electricity. When hearing thunder, quickly find a safe, enclosed shelter including homes, offices, hard-top vehicles with windows rolled up. During outdoor activities, all should not wear metal ornaments or use electronic devices. Responsible agencies such as local administrative organization should set up a thunder strike prevention system including a public warning and installation of lightning rods in the risk areas in the community. Emergency medical service should be strengthened to provide prompt first aids and treatment for lightning strike victims.



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



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