

# Department of Disease Control, Weekly Disease Forecast No.56\_Toad Poisoning (2 - 8 May 2016)

The national disease surveillance system revealed 4 cases with 1 death of toad poisoning from eating toad eggs during the previous week (25 April – 1 May 2016).

In Thailand, from 2007 up to present, the incidence of poisoning due to consumption of toad eggs were reported from some provinces including Sukhothai (4 cases with 2 deaths), Bangkok (1 death), Loei (1 death), Ubon Ratchathani (1 death) and Kalasin (1 death).



According to this week disease forecast, there is a continue risk of toad poisoning as there will be more toads during the rainy season along with the existing misbelief of some rural people that use of toad eggs in food can cure diseases. Toad toxins, including bufotoxin, bufotenin and bufagenin, are found in its skin, blood, internal organs and eggs. Signs of toad poisoning range from local effects (e.g. frothy salivation), vomiting, vigorous head shaking, convulsion, heart failure and deaths.

The Department of Disease Control therefore warns people not to consume toads or toad eggs. People should also avoid eating frog and bullfrog eggs as it is difficult to tell the differences among them. The toad toxins are resistant to heat and thus its toxins are not destroyed in well- cooked food.

A specific antidote for toad toxins is not available. To minimize toxin absorption, the mouth of the patient should be immediately and thoroughly flushed with copious amount of water to stimulate vomiting. Rapid medical attention thereafter is crucial. Hotline 1669 should be called for emergency medical services.

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

