

# Department of Disease Control

## Weekly Disease Forecast No. 58\_Lightning Strike Injuries (16 - 22 May 2016)

According to the national disease surveillance system during the year 2015 to May 2016, there were 29 incidents of lightning strike injuries causing 65 injured victims and 32 deaths. The incidents occurred under tall trees and in open shelters such as huts (13), in open spaces (8), near surfaces or equipment that conduct electricity (5), and while driving motorcycles (3).

The lightning strikes mostly occurred during the monsoon season (April to June). Most of the previous year incidents were found in the Northeastern region of the country.



According to the Meteorological Department's weather forecast, there will be frequent thunderstorms across the country during May to June 2016. This week disease forecast therefore warns that there is a continue risk of lightning strike injuries.

The Department of Disease Control recommends that people protect themselves by avoiding outdoor activities, staying under open spaces or tall structures, staying near equipment that conduct electricity, or driving motorcycles during thunderstorms. When hearing thunder, quickly find a safe, enclosed shelter including homes, offices, hard-top vehicles with windows rolled up.

If a lightning strike victim is found, call Emergency Medical Service 1669 immediately for help. First aid given while waiting professional medical attention can save lives.

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

