

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.77_Water Accidents (26 September – 2 October 2016)

The national disease surveillance system revealed that according to the statistics of the Marine Department during 2011-2015, there were 143 water accidents (an average of 28 times per year) with 53 deaths. The highest incidence was in 2014 with 57 accidents causing 19 deaths.

Last week, there were two boat accidents. The first one was an overcrowded double-decker boat carrying around 100 passengers that ran into an embankment on the Chao Phraya river in Ayutthaya province, causing 28 deaths. The second accident was a capsized long-boat during a traditional racing on the Pasak river, Phetchabun province, causing 23 injured victims, 1 death, and 1 missing.



According to this week disease forecast, there is a possibility of water-related accidents during this rainy season as river water levels are high with strong tides.

The Department of Disease Control encourages people who use water transport to be cautious. When traveling by a boat, it is advised to always avoid an overcrowded boat. Choose a seat properly by considering the balance of the boat, avoid standing at a stern or sitting on a gunwale or a roof, and keep calm when a boat rocks. A boat driver should always be cautious while driving. When the boat heads near a river bend or a confluence, decrease the speed of the boat. Never overload a boat beyond its safety limit. Make sure a boat is equipped for passengers' safety including enough personal floating devices (PFDs), i.e. life jackets or lifebuoys. Place warning signs in any dangerous spots.

The service provider of water transportation and water-related services, such as dinner river cruises in Bangkok, Nonthaburi, and Ayutthaya, must maintain safety standards and always be cautious while providing the services.

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

