

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.132_Drowning (30 October– 5 November 2017)

Currently, high rainfalls have caused floods in some provinces in the central, northern and northeastern regions.

The national disease surveillance system revealed 19 drowning deaths in October 2017. The highest proportion was found in children aged 1 year and 8 months to 18 years old (12 deaths or 63%). The most common locations were natural water sources, such as ponds, ditches, canals, swamps, and check dams.



According to this week disease forecast, drowning death is likely to continue especially in flooding areas. In rural areas, risky behavior is among adults who go fishing for subsistence, using small boats. Riskier behavior is drinking alcohol before boating. In children, drowning deaths usually occur when they go swimming in open water sources.

The Department of Disease Control advises measures to avoid drowning accidents as follows: 1) parents should take good care of their children and do not let them play in flooding areas, 2) do not leave risk groups such as children, the elderly, the disabled and people with chronic medical illnesses alone in flooding areas, 3) avoid drinking alcohol during water related activities, 4) avoid travelling or doing water related activities in fast-flowing streams, 5) travelling by water route should be in group with life jacket wearing, 6) be cautious even if the water height is only 15 centimeters, and 7) if accidentally fall into water, try to be calm, find the nearest shore, try to float (don't swim) or hug any flotation devices, and wave for help.

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



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