

Department of Disease Control, Weekly Disease Forecast No.29 (12-18 October 2015)

The 2015 Southeast Asian haze has caused air pollution crisis affecting several countries, including Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Southern Thailand, Vietnam and possibly Cambodia and Central Philippines. It is the result of forest fires in Indonesia caused by illegal slash-and-burn practices.

From the national disease surveillance system during last week, the haze has affected 7 southern provinces, i.e. Narathiwat, Pattani, Yala, Satun, Phuket, Songkla, and Suratthani.

Haze can affect health of the people, i.e skin irritation, eye irritation, conjunctivitis, respiratory infection or pneumonia. Up to present, there has been no deaths due to the situation.



This week disease forecast reveals that haze situation will continue to persist and affect health of the people residing in southern provinces.

The Department of Disease Control (DDC) therefore advises high risk people living in the haze-affected areas, especially the elderly and people with chronic diseases such as asthma, pulmonary problems, coronary heart disease, children and pregnant women, to stay indoors when the haze has reached unhealthy level.

In addition, it is advised to avoid longtime outdoor activities and activities that cause dust or smog. If unavoidable, people should wear protective masks or cover their faces with thick clothes. Rain water should not be used for any consumption.

People in affected areas should update the situation from government sector and follow DDC's advice until the air quality improves. High risk groups should be taken care of closely. If symptoms occur, medical attention at a hospital nearby is necessary.

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



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