

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.51_Drowning (28 March – 3 April 2016)

According to the national disease surveillance system, during 1 January to 24 March 2016, there were 54 drowning incidents with 55 deaths and 26 injured victims. During 1 – 24 March 2016, there were 22 drowning incidents with 21 deaths and 16 injured victims. Most of them were school children aged 5 – 14 years.

For the past 10 years (2006-2015), there were 10,923 drowning deaths among Thai children under 15 years old or an average of nearly 1,100 deaths annually. The fatal drowning rate was two times more in male than that of female. The most common location was natural water settings (41.6%). The highest rate occurred during school vacation in hot season (March to May) with an average of 372 deaths each year.



According to this week disease forecast, drowning may occur throughout the school vacation in this hot season. The Department of Disease Control encourages parents and teachers to teach and take good care of their children as per the following measures:

For young children (under 5 years old): 1) empty all water containers especially bathtubs, wash basins, and water buckets after each use, 2) keep a child in a four-sided fencing area far from water containers, 3) cover all water containers tightly, and 4) supervise all children carefully, particularly infants using bathtubs, and never leave them alone.

For older children (higher than 5 years old): teach children to swim and educate children and adults basic life saving techniques, i.e. 1) surviving by self-floating or using equipment such as life jackets, 2) learning water safety rules such as not to swim alone or pretend drowning and always use life jackets, 3) asking for help by shouting, throwing or extending devices such as swimming rubber ring, sticks, belts, to rescue drowning people and calling EMS hotline 1669, and 4) giving first-aid including Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) skills that could save life. It is dangerous, thus forbidden, to force a drowning child to throw the water out by carrying him on shoulder and shake hardly.



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

