



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 1, 2011

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2011 - 0310

TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORS, BUREAU / SERVICE DIRECTORS, PROGRAM MANAGERS, CHIEFS OF DOH SPECIALTY HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CENTERS

SUBJECT: Implementing Guidelines and Mobilization of all Centers for Health Development, DOH Hospitals and Medical Centers for the Aksyon: Paputok Injury Reduction (A.P.I.R)

In line with the effort to reduce the incidence of firecracker – related injuries during the holiday season and in consonance with its present strategy, the Department of Health embarks on the project, **Aksyon: Paputok Injury Reduction (A.P.I.R)** which symbolizes agreement and unity among Filipinos in reducing or even eliminating firecrackers/fireworks related injury cases.

In line with this, all Center for Health Development Directors and Chiefs of DOH Hospitals/Medical Centers are hereby directed to mobilize their respective offices and hospitals to undertake the following activities:

1. The A.P.I.R. Campaign

The A.P.I.R campaign for this year celebration is represented by the images of the hand making an APIR gesture. The word APIR as described by the University of the Philippines Diksyunaryong Filipino is a sign of greeting by slapping of the hands which also termed as “*High Five*” or “*Give Me Five*” used in the United States.

A.P.I.R will have **five (5) warnings** to prevent injury from firecrackers are: (1) *Mapanganib ang paggamit ng paputok* (2) *Lahat ng paputok ay bawal sa bata* (3) *Lumayo sa mga taong nagpapaputok* (4) *Huwag mamulot ng di sumabog na paputok* (5) *Magpagamot agad kapag naputukan* and the **five (5) alternative ways** to spend the New Year’s Eve are (1) *Itaguyod at makilahok sa “Community Fireworks Display”* (2) *Magdiwang nang ligtas kasama ang pamilya* (3) *Lumikha ng ingay gamit ang ibang bagay tulad ng torotot, busina, musika, lata, atpb.* (4) *Makisaya sa ibang paraan tulad ng street party, concert, palaro, atpb* (5) *Matuto sa mga aral ng nakaraan at magsimula nang maayos na buhay sa Bagong Taon.*

2. Emergency Room Preparedness and Responsiveness

All DOH Hospitals are hereby declared on **CODE WHITE ALERT** on December 24, 25, 31, 2011 and January 1, 2012 to prepare their emergency units and ensure the provision of prompt emergency services to injured patients during the Holiday Season. Adequate manpower, drugs and medicines, vaccines, medical supplies and equipment among others shall be made available at all times.

3. Nationwide Registry Injuries

All DOH Sentinel Hospitals shall report to the *Online National Electronic Surveillance System Registry (ONEISS)* of the Department of Health. The surveillance period for fireworks injury prevention, stray bullets and watusi ingestion victims shall commence at 6:00 am of December 21, 2011 and will end at 5:59 am of January 5, 2012. Reporting should be done daily and strict observance of time is required.

4. Tetanus Surveillance.

The surveillance period for fireworks-related tetanus victim shall commence on December 21, 2011 and shall end on January 21, 2012. Fireworks related tetanus cases hospitalized even after the surveillance period must be reported. Availability/stocks of Tetanus Toxoid/Vaccine in hospitals should be ensured.

5. Networking with Other Government Agencies

The A.P.I.R campaign for this year celebration promotes information and awareness on the dangers of firecrackers and the prevention of firecrackers and fireworks-related injuries. Coordination with the Regional Offices of various Agencies such as Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Department of Education, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Labor and Employment, Philippine Information Agency, Bureau of Fire Protection, National Police Commission, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Science and Technology, different Leagues of the Philippines (Provincial, Cities, Municipalities, and Barangay) and others as well as the Non-Government Agencies in order to strengthen the public information campaign and other advocacy activities especially against the use of Watusi and illegal Firecrackers, which is prohibited under Republic Act 7183 otherwise known as the Firecracker Law. And in the light of the devolution, provision of technical assistance and close coordination with the Local Government Units (LGU's) should be enhanced wherein the Local Government Executives (LGE's) should enforce strictly the Republic Act 7183 (Firecracker Law) and spread the safe and alternative celebration of the New Year in their respective areas.

6. **Firecracker Ban on all DOH Facilities**

All offices, hospitals of the DOH and its attached agencies are hereby declared a **FIRECRACKER FREE ZONE**. Moreover, **SELLING/VENDING OF FIRECRACKERS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED** within the premises of the Department of Health Facilities. All Heads of Agencies are hereby instructed to disseminate these guidelines to their respective personnel.

The Degenerative Disease Office of the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control (DDO-NCDPC) shall ensure the implementation of the initiative nationwide. The Area Cluster for NCR and Southern Luzon, Northern and Central Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, Health Emergency Management Staff (HEMS), National Epidemiology Center (NEC), Information Management Service (IMS), National Center for Health Promotion (NCHP), Media Relation Unit (MRU) and the National Center for Health Facility Development (NCHFD) shall coordinate closely and provide necessary technical support for this initiative.

Under this Order, expenses incurred for the implementation of the abovementioned activities shall be charged against the funds of the respective DOH offices and hospitals subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.



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Secretary of Health