

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd backs DOH's campaign to protect children from fireworks injuries

Education Secretary Armin A. Luistro has expressed solidarity in the campaign launched by the Department of Health and the local government units to protect children from firework-related injuries by strictly enforcing the ban on the use of all firecrackers during the holiday season revelry.

"We encourage students and parents to celebrate the holiday season in a simple and peaceful way to protect our children from injuries," Luistro said.

Of the total injuries recorded in 2009, 990 were due to fireworks and 45 were caused by stray bullets representing a 164% increase compared to 17 reported cases in 2008.

The 2009 DOH report on injuries from the use of firecrackers/fireworks revealed that the ages of injured victims ranged from two months to 78 years old where the median age is 14 years. The most affected group belonged to the 1-10 years and the 11-20 year age groups.

Seventy-nine percent (79%) of those injured were males while majority (57%) of the victims directly handled fireworks.

"We therefore reiterate this call because data show that children are most prone and vulnerable to firework-related injuries," Luistro explained.

DOH suggests that local government units designate a common fireworks display area which should be handled only by professionals citing that even bystanders can be injured during the holiday festivities.

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