



DOH reports 2 fireworks-related injuries

By ANALOU DE VERA

The Department of Health (DOH) on Sunday reported two fireworks-related injuries (FWRIs) as it started its yearly nationwide surveillance.

The reported cases of FWRIs involved a 23-year-old man from the National Capital Region and a four-year-old girl from Cagayan Valley region. They were brought to the Philippine General Hospital and Southern Isabela Medical Center, respectively, for treatment.

The DOH said that the two individuals suffered from “burns without amputation.” They were sent home after treatment, it added.

The health department said that the current figure of FWRIs was 67 percent lower compared to the figures reported in the same period last year, wherein six cases were

recorded.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said that hospitals nationwide must be ready to treat and manage fireworks-related injuries.

“Ang aking direktiba sa atin pong mga ospital sa buong Pilipinas...ay ang kahandaan ng mga ospital, kahandaan ng kanilang gamit, kahandaan ng kanilang yaman tao or human resource for health — mga doctors, surgeons, anesthesiologist, nurses, med-techs — lahat po iyan nagco-code white to code blue alert tayo sa ganoong mga panahon [My directive to all hospitals around the Philippines is to be ready — in terms of equipment, human resource for health — doctors, surgeons, anesthesiologist, nurses, med-techs — all of it. We are on code white or code blue during this time of the year],” said the health chief.

Duque said that under code white alert, all medical personnel should be ready to respond to any emergency situations.

“Anytime [they are] on call... So kailangan tumugon sila sa lalong madaling panahon at tumulong [they need to respond as soon as possible] to compliment the response to the emergency cases if and when there is an unusually high number of cases, then we mobilize all of the employees of the health workforce of the hospital,” he said.

The DOH recently encouraged the public to just use “alternative and equally enjoyable ways of celebrating the holidays” without the risk of physical harm.

“Community fireworks displays, street parties, musical concerts, horns, among others are safer and more festive alternatives to lighting up firecrackers,” said Duque.