

DoH reports lower fireworks-related injuries

By banning firecrackers, we will ensure that firework-related injuries are avoided and Covid-19 can be prevented

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The Department of Health (DoH) yesterday reported 14 firework-related injuries in the past week, which is said to be lower than last year's 35 tallied cases.

In the latest data retrieved from 61 sentinel hospitals from 21 to 29 December, 13 of these were caused by fireworks, while one was due to a stray bullet injury.

As stated in Sunday's DoH report, the stray bullet victim was a seven-year-old male from Masbate who was accidentally hit after their visitor fired a gun inside the house "in celebration of Christmas."

On the other hand, among the other injuries reported, eight were due to blasts or burn injuries without the need for amputation, while five sustained damages in the eye.

DoH said these incidents were reported in Metro Manila, CALABARZON, Bicol, Central Luzon, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, SOCCSKSARGEN and CARAGA.

Of these, 12 injured patients have already been sent home after treatment, while another is still admitted at the hospital.

Meanwhile, the Caloocan City government and Quezon City yesterday said it is prohibiting the use of firecrackers to prevent mass gathering and ensure the safety of the people during the celebration of New Year.

In an advisory, Caloocan City Mayor Oscar "Oca" Malapitan cited that the use of any fireworks and pyrotechnic devices is prohibited in Metro Manila, which is currently under general community quarantine. This includes the city of Caloocan.

"This is based on the released Resolution 20-17, series of 2020, of the Metro Manila Council, which includes all mayors in the National Capital Region," Malapitan stressed.

The said resolution aims to prevent mass gathering and other violations of the Covid-19 protocols during the New Year celebration.

"As we celebrate the New Year, we must prioritize the safety of our families and ourselves. By banning firecrackers, we will ensure that firework-related injuries are avoided and Covid-19 can be prevented," he said.

On the other hand, the Quezon City Police District, the Department of Public Order and Safety and other members of the city's Peace and Order Cluster have been ordered to strictly implement Ordinance SP 2618, S-2017.

The strict implementation of the firecracker ordinance, will, aside from reducing firecracker injuries, discourage gatherings for fireworks display and aid in compliance with Covid-19 health protocols.

The reduction in firecracker injuries will also ease the burden on medical resources, which are already overstrained by the ongoing pandemic.

The directive is also in support of the MMC's Resolution 20-17.