

Flooding in Southern Thailand

Torrential rain in Southern Thailand during 31 December 2011 to 1 January 2012, caused by the combined effects of the northeastern monsoon in the Gulf of Thailand and a low pressure cell covering northern Malaysia, has affected a total of ten provinces. These provinces are Songkla, Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat, Phattalung, Nakorn Srithammarat, Surat Thani, Chumpon, Trang and Ranong.

According to the Ministry of Interior, a total of 64 districts and 1,729 villages in the ten provinces experienced flash floods. Many households, schools, and agriculture lands were affected, leading to transportation disruptions across the area. Many roads have been closed and train services halted due to high-level inundation, with some villages affected by mudslides. Flood levels have reached up to two meters in areas of Hat Yai.

Between 6-8 January 2012, heavy rain is expected in the lower part of the region. The Ministry of Interior is working hand in hand with local authorities in providing assistance to those affected as well as to prepare for the coming rain. In this regard, the 11th and 12th Regional Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Centres (Surat Thani and Songkla) have been designated as main points of contact. The hotline number, which operates 24 hours, is telephone number 1784.

Residents of the affected provinces have been advised to follow the instructions of authorities. Fishermen are advised to remain cautious and small boats should stay tied ashore. Travelers are advised to remain alert and avoid flooded areas.

Despite the situation, it should be noted that the floods are limited to only certain districts in the Southern provinces. Visitors to Thailand will find that most parts of the country remain unaffected, while airports and other main transportation systems are functioning normally. Tourists can continue to visit tourist destinations in other parts of the South, such as Phuket, Krabi and Samui, as well as all other regions.

Department of Information,
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