

Thai village battles dengue fever

June 5 2007

A hillside village in Thailand is battling an outbreak of dengue fever.

About 160 villagers from tambon Mae Rai were hospitalized with the mosquito-borne viral disease, including seven who were transferred to a district hospital because they were critically ill, the Bangkok Post reported.

A district official said the villagers, whom he described as mostly poor ethnic Akha people, were not initially aware how to control the outbreak.

"Though a bit late, the people are now fully aware of the danger and doing all they can to prevent the situation from worsening," Somchai Banchapol, a member of the tambon administration organization, told the Post.

All 500 houses in the village were sprayed with pesticide and the villagers agreed to destroy mosquito breeding grounds, he said.

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