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SUPORN LILITHUM: DANGER PREVENTING BEHAVIOR OF PEOPLE USING EXPRESS BOATS IN BANGKOK METROPOLIS. RESEARCH REPORT ADVISORS: PENSRI RABEAB, M.S., JARIYAWAT KOMPAYAK, Dr.P.H. 32 P. ISBN 974-662-591-8

Serious traffic jams in Bangkok and vicinity cause increasingly large numbers of people to travel on waterway by using express boat. This makes a high risk of waterway accident which impacts on the quality of life of the passengers because the accidents are harmful to human lives. The purpose of this study was to examine danger preventing behavior of people using express boats in Bangkok Metropolis. The sample consisted of 34 express boat passengers. Data was collected by observation and interview during 18 January to 19 February 1999. Grouping, frequency and percentage were done for analysis.

The study revealed that the age of passengers was between 15–55 years. Most passengers were female. Eleven females and one male did not have the ability to swim. The passengers were employees and students. Most of them always used the express boat to travel to work and school. They shared the opinion that the express boat was convenient and fast because of good ventilation, no crowds and no traffic jam (97.0%). Meanwhile, most subjects were not fully satisfied with safety (76.5%) and cost (70.5%) because of no ability to swim, severe accident, and high cost of ticket. For the preparation to face the accident, most passengers realized that they had to be aware for themselves by minding the step and standing nearby the rescue accessories. For the safety factors, most subjects accepted that pier, boat, boat driver and the passengers were appropriate. On the other hand, rescue accessories were not appropriate because there were not enough for all passengers and the accessories are difficult to access because they are tied down.

The study suggests that passengers should know how to prevent waterway accidents. Boat operators should fulfil their responsibilities, especially concerning safety, according to the law. Also other responsible agencies should cooperate in development planning to prevent waterway accidents.