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**AFRICA UNION COMMISSION ORGANISES AWARENESS WORKSHOP ON
FIRST AID AND HEALTHY SAFETY TIPS**



Addis Ababa, 5 August 2011 – A workshop program on First Aid Healthy Safety training was held on 5 August 2011 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa ,Ethiopia, in the presence of Anesthetist Kibret Abebe, Mr.Sirak Gugsu from Orthopedic nurse, Black Lion Hospital, Dr.Elias Ahmed from Orthopedic AAU , Sergeant Assefa Mezgebu from Addis Ababa Police Commission as well as AUC staff.

The program was jointly organised by the African Union Commission (AUC) Medical Service Directorate (MSD) and the Tebita Ambulance Services in Addis Ababa.

Addressing the participants, Aresthetis Kibret Abebe began his presentation by defining the signs, the treatments and the management of emergency that can be helpful in our day to day life for the prevention of accidents such as shocks, fainting and unconsciousness asphexia.

Speaking later, Sirak Gugsu (orthopedic nurse, Black Lion Hospital) updated the participants on practice in handling and transportation of emergency cases. He gave a presentation about close limb fractures, open limb fractures, pelvic injuries, upper limb amputation and shared different technique to be used during the different types of accident. He further advice on the kind of material to be used during accidents, including: splint, padding and tile materials. With regards to the transportation of injured patients, Dr.Gugsu emphasized on the need to use the proper method that is one man, two men, 2, 3, 4 men accordingly depending on the serious of injury. He underlined that extreme care should be taken when treating a suspected fracture.



The third lecture of this training program was given by Dr. Elias Ahmed, focusing on the Spinal Cord injuries. He highlighted the common emergency conditions such as wound, bleeding, burn and Poisoning that needs proper attention when ever an accident occurs.

Sergeant Assefa Mezgebu described the different causes of accidents in Addis Ababa including alcohol, fatigue, use of

mobile phone while driving, seat belt not fasten, excess speed, violation of signs and traffic lights, wrong parking and driving very close behind other vehicle. He suggested that drivers should fulfill pre crash preparedness and use protection devices.

Speaking while closing the workshop, the Director of AU Medical Services, Dr.yankuba Gassama, congratulated the participants and submitted a certificate to the 26 trainees for a “successful completion on first aid and health safety training program”, Sponsored by the AU Commission and the Tebita Ambulance pre-Hospital emergency medical service.

According to Dr. Gassama this certificate qualifies the trainees to better manage accident through first aid methods and save lives.