

Safety Guidelines for Handling and Disposing of Dead Wild Birds

The carcass of a dead bird, including its body parts and internal organs, may carry pathogens that are hazardous to humans. Members of the public should avoid having direct contact with the carcass, blood or body fluid of the dead wild bird.

If a dead wild bird is found, the public can call the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department through the Government hotline 1823. If the dead bird is found in a private property, the management office should initiate measures to prevent other persons to come into contact with the carcass.

Persons who are required to handle the carcass should observe the following:

I. Equipment:

1. Waterproof rubber gloves
2. Surgical mask
3. Disposable apron
4. Household bleach solution
5. Bucket
6. Tongs (if necessary)
7. Two thick plastic bags

II. Personal Protection:

1. Do not handle the carcass, blood or body fluid of the dead bird with bare hands.
2. Cover hand wounds with waterproof bandages before handling the dead bird.
3. Wear waterproof rubber gloves and surgical masks when handling, transferring or moving a dead bird. Disposable aprons should be worn when contamination of clothing is expected.

III. Handling and Disposing of Dead Bird

1. Put the dead bird into a thick black plastic bag with a pair of tongs or by hands protected with waterproof rubber gloves. The bag should be goose neck tied.
2. Place the bag with dead bird (inner bag) into another thick plastic bag (outer bag). Then remove the rubber gloves (inside out) and wash hands thoroughly with soap.
3. Dispose of all used items including the rubber gloves and surgical mask by putting them in the outer bag. Then wash hands again thoroughly with soap.
4. Disinfect those reusable items and mop the surfaces that are likely to be contaminated, e.g. floor, platform, stairs etc., with diluted household bleach (1 part of household bleach in 49 parts of water).
5. Call the Government hotline 1823 if the dead bird is for testing.
6. For government staff and contractors, follow departmental guideline in disposing of dead birds.

IV. Additional Information:

1. Take off the clothes and have a shower/bath immediately if splashed or contaminated by materials likely to carry pathogens when handling the dead bird.
2. If accidentally pricked or cut when handling the dead bird, call the hospital's emergency service as soon as possible.