

**Guidance for Wild Bird Carcass Disposal in Public Areas
During an Ongoing Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Outbreak**

DIRECTIONS TO THE PUBLIC

**Report sick or dead wild bird mortalities to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) at:
app.myfwc.com/FWRI/AvianMortality**

1-10 dead wild birds at same site/per day:

1. Wear impermeable and disposable gloves, N95 mask, boots, and coveralls (see MyFWC.com/avianinfluenza).
 2. Collect carcass using a shovel, pitchfork, long-handled tongs, or disposable gloves.
 3. Bury the carcass, or triple-bag it and tie the bag closed before putting it in the garbage.
 4. Dispose gloves with the carcass, clean the shovel or tongs with 10% bleach solution, and wash hands with soap and water.
- Leaving carcasses in place is an acceptable option, if there is low risk of contact from poultry, pets, or children. You may also contact a commercial wildlife trapper for carcass removal at app.myfwc.com/hgm/nwt/nwtsearch.aspx.

For >10 bird mortalities per day:

1. Report to FWC at: app.myfwc.com/FWRI/AvianMortality. FWC does not have the capacity to provide carcass disposal in all situations but may be able to assist.

DIRECTIONS TO WILDLIFE PERSONNEL & COMMERCIAL WILDLIFE TRAPPERS

≤30 dead wild birds at same site/per day:

1. Assume cause of death is HPAI unless passerines or obvious cause of trauma.
 2. Report to FWC at: app.myfwc.com/FWRI/AvianMortality.
 3. Wear PPE (gloves, fitted N-95 respirator mask or universal mask, boots, and coveralls).
 4. Collect carcasses using a shovel, pitchfork, long-handled tongs, or disposable gloves.
 5. Bury on-site, if possible, in an area where access is controlled, and the hole is not in water. Precautions should be taken to ensure the site will not be excavated. Place lime under and over the carcasses, and cover with at least 2 feet of soil material.
- Off-site disposal options: If not buried on-site, double bag using contractor lawn/leaf bags, disinfect outside of bag, place in leak-proof container (e.g., cooler or cart with liner), and dispose of at a state incinerator (FWC, FDACS) or Class 1 Landfill (ensure burial at landfill). Search Class 1 Landfill locations at: fldeploc.dep.state.fl.us/www_wacs/Reports/SW_Facility_Inventory_srch.asp
6. Disinfect vehicle before leaving site and after disposal.
 7. Do not visit a poultry operation, backyard flock, or poultry exhibition for at least 5 days.

**FOR LOCAL, TRIBAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES RESPONDING TO
MASS MORTALITY >30 WILD BIRDS AT SAME SITE/PER DAY**

1. Assume cause of death is HPAI unless passerines or obvious cause of trauma.
2. Report to FWC at: app.myfwc.com/FWRI/AvianMortality.
3. Carcasses should be disposed of within 24 hours per USDA guidelines for Disposal at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/emergency-management/carcass-management>
4. Wear PPE (gloves, fitted N-95 respirator mask or universal mask, boots, and coveralls).
5. Use the following on-site management techniques where possible or use off-site disposal options described above.
 - a. Burial
 - Not in water or a dewatered pit
 - 2 ft above seasonal high-water table
 - 200 ft from a water body and 500 feet from a potable water well
 - Not in a 100-year floodplain
 - 100 ft from property boundary
 - Lime bottom of hole and each layer of carcasses
 - Layer carcasses no greater than one-foot thick
 - Cover with two feet of soil over each carcass layer
 - Control access to burial area
 - b. Composting: Create base with 2 feet of bulking agent (wood chips, sawdust, etc.), layer of birds, 1 foot of bulking agent, layer of birds, 1 foot of bulking agent, layer of birds, cover with 2 feet of bulking agent. Protect from scavengers. Do not turn for at least 10 days.
 - c. Portable incinerator
6. Disinfect vehicle before leaving site and after disposal.
7. Do not visit a poultry operation, backyard flock, or poultry exhibition for at least 5 days.

Resources: [Biomedical Waste Program | Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](#) has links to Chapter 64E-16, F.A.C., for packaging, transportation and treatment requirements at [CHAPTER 64E-16 \(floridahealth.gov\)](#). List of registered biomedical waste transporters at [Biomedical Waste Transporter List | Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](#). Commercial treatment facilities at [Treatment Systems and Facilities | Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](#).