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வட மேல் மாகாண சுகாதார சேவைகள் திணைக்களம்
Department of Health Services – Northwestern Province



නැ. පො. 84, සෞඛ්‍ය සංකීර්ණය,
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எனது இல :
My No

NWP/PDHS/CH3/Disaster/2025

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Your No

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திகதி :
Date

02 .12.2025

Regional Director of Health Services Kurunegala and Puttalam
All Medical Officer of Health Kurunegala and Puttalam Districts

Disposal of Dead Animals After Extreme Weather Events and Landslides in North Western Province

Extreme weather events (floods, landslides, cyclones, prolonged rain) can cause large numbers of animal deaths. Disposal must be done immediately, safely, and according to legal requirement to prevent disease outbreaks and water contamination.

The disposal of dead animals must comply with the following legal provisions:

- Disposal during disasters must follow coordinated instructions of Medical Officer of Health (MOH), Department of Animal Product and Health (DAPH), Local Authorities, Police, and Tri-forces (Disaster Management Act No. 13 of 2005).
- Department of Animal Product and Health and Provincial and divisional Veterinary surgeons can order disposal methods for suspected infectious animals (Animal Diseases Act No. 59 of 1992).
- Disposal in environmentally sensitive zones requires approval from relevant authorities. Burning or burial must not contaminate water sources (Central Environmental Authority [CEA] regulations).
- Local Authorities are responsible for implementing carcasses disposal according to the Local Government Acts.
- It is an offence to leave carcasses exposed or accessible to scavengers or to contaminate water sources. PHI, MOH, and Local Authorities are empowered to supervise disposal. (Public Health Ordinance).

Legally Acceptable Methods of Disposal

- Deep Burial (preferred for large animals): Burial pits 6–8 feet deep, 100–200 meters from water sources, using quicklime, covered with compacted soil.
- Burning/Incineration: Under supervision, away from residences, crops, and water sources. Complete combustion must be ensured.
- Rendering at Approved Facilities: Transport under PHI/Police supervision; avoid passing through residential areas.
- Inter Provincial Transportation – Prior approval from the Provincial Authority must be obtained before transporting between provinces.
- Special Cases: Suspected infectious animals must be disposed of under DAPH/Veterinary Surgeon guidance. Wild animal deaths must be reported to the Department of Wildlife Conservation.

All MOH and PHI are instructed to:

- Identify and report all animal deaths in their areas.
- Supervise the disposal of carcasses according to the legal and public health guidelines referenced above.
- Coordinate with local authorities, DAPH officers, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Ensure strict adherence to PPE use and site disinfection protocols.
- Maintain comprehensive records of all carcasses disposal activities.

Your strict compliance and prompt action in guiding the relevant stakeholders are essential to protect public health and prevent disease outbreaks in the aftermath of these extreme weather events.

Your cooperation in ensuring the immediate implementation of these measures across all affected areas is greatly appreciated.

Dr. M. K. Sampath Indika Kumara
Provincial Director of Health Services
North Western Province

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Provincial Director of Health Services
North Western Province
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Copies:

1. Hon. Governor, North Western Province - f.y.i
2. Health Secretary, Ministry of Health, Colombo - f.y.i
3. Chief Secretary, North Western Province - f.y.i
4. Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Colombo - f.y.i
5. Health Secretary, Ministry of Health, North Western Province - f.y.i
6. Chief Epidemiologist, Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health, Colombo - f.y.i
7. Provincial Director – Department of Animal Production and Health, NWP - f.y.i and n.a
8. Provincial Director – Environment Authority, NWP - f.y.i and n.a
9. Provincial Director – Central Environment Authority, NWP - f.y.i and n.a
10. Senior DIG, DIG Office, North Western Province - f.y.i and n.a
11. Commissioner, Department of Local Government, NWP -To disseminate among Pradeshiya Sabha
12. Commissioner, Municipal Council, Kurunegala - f.y.i. and n.a
13. Consultant Community Physician, Kurunegala/ Puttalam - f.n.a
14. RE/ Medical Officer Epidemiology, Kurunegala/ Puttalam - f.n.a
15. SPHIP, PDHS Office, NWP - f.n.a
16. SPHID, RDHS Office, Kurunegala / Puttalam - f.n.a

