

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Idaho State Office
South Vinnell Way
Boise, Idaho 83709-1657

In Reply Refer To:
1112 (930, 914) P

September 13, 2006

EMS
Instruction Memorandum No. ID-2006-073
Expires: 09/30/2007

To: ILT

From: DSD, Resource Services

Subject: Collecting dead birds, West Nile Virus (WNV) & H5N1 Avian Influenza (H5N1)

Program Area: Wildlife, Safety

Purpose: The purpose of this Instruction Memorandum (IM) is to establish procedures for collecting dead birds that may be infected with WNV or H5N1.

Policy/Action: Managers have the discretion to authorize their employees to collect dead bird specimens and provide the specimens to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game or Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. At a minimum, employees seeing unusual circumstances of dead birds should send the Idaho Department of Fish and Game a description along with a Global Positioning System location, with a copy to the District and Field Office wildlife biologists and to John Augsburg in the Idaho State Office. Suggested procedures are attached as "Suggested Procedures for Reporting or Collecting Dead Birds." We have also attached recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (Interimguidance_WNV_HPAI_bird_surveillance_082206.pdf).

If managers decide to participate, they should control who will participate and ensure the employees are provided adequate training and equipment. We suggest training be conducted by someone formally trained in the use of personal protective equipment. Managers should also complete the appropriate Risk Management Worksheet template, attached as:

Incidental Exposure~RA1.doc
Bird Harvest~2RA.doc
Direct Handling~ 3RA.doc

Timeframe: This IM is effective immediately.

Background: It has come to our attention that informal requests and other communications have been made regarding the use of Bureau personnel in identifying and collecting dead birds for conducting surveillance for WNV or H5N1 in Wild Migratory Birds. We are unaware of any formal request from any agency for assistance in collecting dead birds. Such requests may be occurring at the District and Field Offices.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: None.

Coordination: This IM was coordinated through the Deputy State Director for Resource Services and State Safety and Occupational Health Manager.

Contact: If you have questions please contact John Augsburger, Idaho State Wildlife Biologist at (208) 373-3809, Karl Gebhardt, Idaho State Environmental Engineer at (208) 373-3814, or Jan Peterson, Safety and Occupational Health Manager at (208) 373-4030.

Boise District with Union: Management is reminded to notify and satisfy any bargaining requirements prior to implementation.

Signed
Susan Giannettino
DSD, Resource Services

Authenticated
Teresa Atkinson
Staff Assistant (931)

Attachments:

Interim guidance_WNV_HPAI_bird_surveillance_082206.pdf
Incidental Exposure~RA1.doc
Bird Harvest~2RA.doc
Direct Handling~ 3RA.doc

cc:

Karl Gebhardt (ID-931)
John Augsburger (ID-931)
Jan Peterson (ID-914)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET

1. Organization and Location DOI Bureau of Land Management	2. Page <u> 1 </u> of <u> 4 </u>		
3. Operation / Task Exposure to Dead or Diseased Animals or Areas of Potential Contamination. <u>Incidental Exposure</u>	4. Beginning Date:	5. Ending Date:	6. Date Prepared

7. Prepared by (*Name / Duty Position*)

8. Identified Hazards	9. Assess the Hazards: Initial Risk				10. Control Measures Developed for Identified Hazards: (<i>Specific measures taken to reduce the probability of a hazard</i>) Include all PPE	11. Assess the Hazard's Residual Risk:				12. How to Implement the Controls: (May Be Filled in By Hand)	13. Supervisors and Evaluation by: (Continuous Leader Checks, Buddy System, etc.)
(Be Specific)	L	M	H	E	(Be Specific)	L	M	H	E	(Be Specific)	(Be Specific)
Incidental employee exposure to a diseased or dead animals or areas of potential contamination during the course of their work.		X			Supervisors provide training to employees on the potential hazards of exposure to birds and other mammals that may be infected with disease. Do not approach any animals any closer than is absolutely necessary and under no circumstances handle dead or potentially diseased animals. Report any unusual contacts or incidents with animals to their supervisors.	X				Supervisors will use this Risk Assessment and as well as any updated information from their area of operation to brief and train employees.	Protection requirements may change frequently; supervisors will ensure that they keep themselves updated on changes.
Poor personal hygiene practices after potential exposure or contamination.		X			Educate employees about importance of hand washing in controlling disease transmission. Hands should be washed frequently and after contact with contaminated surfaces, after removing gloves, after sneezing, using the bathroom, handling garbage, contact with wildlife, soils and similar activities, and before preparing or eating food, smoking, drinking, applying cosmetics,	X				Supervisors will conduct briefings to ensure that employees understand their responsibilities and to keep them informed of changing threats and risks.	Supervisors will document briefings/training. The documentation will include who was trained / briefed and what subjects were covered.

<p>Employees do not know the signs of birds infected with the WNV.</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>lip balm, or lotions.</p> <p>Handwashing technique – Remove rings and other jewelry. First wet your hands and apply liquid or clean bar soap. Place the bar soap on a rack and allow it to drain. Next rub you hands vigorously together and scrub all surfaces. Continue for 10-15 seconds. It is the soap combined with the scrubbing action that helps dislodge and remove germs. Rinse well and dry your hands.</p> <p>Alcohol-based sanitizing hand rubs or sanitizing cloths may be used as a temporary solution when hand washing facilities are not available</p> <p><i>Note that incidental exposure should not contaminate clothes or areas of the body other than the hands.</i></p> <p>The signs of illness seen in birds infected with WNV are variable and affected by the virus strain, age and species of infected birds, concurrent bacterial disease, and the environment. Such signs may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sudden death without any signs ▪ Lack of coordination ▪ Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs ▪ Soft-shelled or misshapen eggs ▪ Lack of energy and appetite ▪ Diarrhea ▪ Swelling of the head, eyelids, 	<p>X</p>		<p>Supervisors will ensure that hand washing facilities are available and that employees are given the time to properly wash their hands.</p> <p>Supervisors will ensure that employees are briefed on the signs of WNV in birds and other mammals.</p>	<p>Each work location will have access to soap and fresh clean water designated for personal hygiene.</p> <p>Supervisors will document briefings/training. The documentation will include who was trained / briefed and what subjects were covered.</p>
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				<p>comb, wattles, and hocks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nasal discharge ▪ Decreased egg production ▪ Coughing, sneezing <p>Some birds might be otherwise healthy-looking but still infected with WNV.</p>				
Directly handling apparently healthy wildlife (birds or mammals) for banding, tagging or identification purposes.		X		<p>Employee should wear rubber, pvc, nitrile, or latex protective gloves. In addition, employee should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in well-ventilated areas if working indoors. • Disinfect work surfaces and equipment between sites and when tasks are complete. <p>Wash hands after handling animals</p>	X			Supervisors will ensure that employees are provided with protective gloves, work in well ventilated areas [particularly when in doors] and have a 5% bleach solution or alcohol available to disinfect work surfaces and equipment.
Directly handling sick or dead birds or tissue associated with an unusual mortality event		X		<p>Employees will practice safe work practices that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in well-ventilated areas, particularly if working indoors. • Disinfect work surfaces and equipment between sites and when tasks are complete. • Properly bagging potentially infectious material including carcasses. <p>Wash hands after handling animals or potentially contaminated material or equipment.</p> <p>Personal Protective Equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubber, pvc, nitrile or latex gloves • Goggles • • Coveralls • Rubber boots or boot covers 	X			<p>Supervisors will ensure that employees are provided with protective gloves, work in well ventilated areas [particularly when in doors] and have a 5% bleach solution or alcohol available to disinfect work surfaces and equipment.</p> <p>Required PPE will be provided to employees as required by this Risk Assessment; along with the equipment, supervisors will ensure that employees receive the proper training and medical surveillance required for respirator</p>

UNITED STATES
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET

1. Organization and Location DOI Bureau of Land Management			2. Page <u> 1 </u> of <u> 3 </u>		
3. Operation / Task Occupational Exposure to Dead or Diseased Animals or Areas of Potential Disease Contamination <u>Bird Harvest</u>		4. Beginning Date:	5. Ending Date:	6. Date Prepared	

7. Prepared by (*Name / Duty Position*)

8. Identified Hazards	9. Assess the Hazards: Initial Risk				10. Control Measures Developed for Identified Hazards: (<i>Specific measures taken to reduce the probability of a hazard</i>) Include all PPE	11. Assess the Hazard's Residual Risk:				12. How to Implement the Controls: (May Be Filled in By Hand)	13. Supervisors and Evaluation by: (Continuous Leader Checks, Buddy System, etc.)
(Be Specific)	L	M	H	E	(Be Specific)	L	M	H	E	(Be Specific)	(Be Specific)
Directly handling apparently healthy wildlife (birds or mammals) for banding, tagging or identification purposes.		X			Supervisors provide training to employees on the potential hazards of exposure to birds and other mammals that may be infected with WNV, what control measures are recommended for their protection.	X				Supervisors will use this Risk Assessment and WNV Preparedness and Prevention Guidelines as well as any updated information from their area of operation to brief and train employees.	During a WNV outbreak protection requirements may change frequently, supervisors will ensure that they keep themselves updated on changes.
Directly handles sick or dead birds or tissue associated with an unusual mortality event		X			Safe Work Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in well-ventilated areas if working indoors. Disinfect work surfaces and equipment between sites and when tasks are complete. Properly dispose of potentially 	X					

			<p>infectious material including carcasses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash hands after handling animals • Monitor your health for clinical signs of WNV during and for two weeks after your last exposure to infected or exposed birds. Contact your healthcare provider if you develop fever, flu-like <p>• Personal Protective Gear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubber, pvc, nitrile or latex gloves • Goggles 					
Poor personal hygiene practices after potential exposure or contamination			<p>Educate employees about importance of hand washing in controlling disease transmission. Hands should be washed frequently and after contact with contaminated surfaces, after removing gloves, after sneezing, using the bathroom, handling garbage, contact with wildlife, soils and similar activities, and before preparing or eating food, smoking, drinking, applying cosmetics, lip balm, or lotions.</p> <p>Handwashing technique – Remove rings and other jewelry. First wet your hands and apply liquid or clean bar soap. Place the bar soap on a rack and allow it to drain. Next rub you hands vigorously together and scrub all surfaces. Continue for 10-15 seconds. It is the soap combined with the scrubbing action that helps dislodge and remove germs. Rinse well and dry your hands.</p> <p>Alcohol-based sanitizing hand rubs or sanitizing cloths may be used as a temporary solution when hand washing facilities are not available</p>	X			<p>Supervisors will conduct briefings to ensure that employees understand their responsibilities and to keep them informed of changing threats and risks.</p> <p>Supervisors will ensure that hand washing facilities are available and that employees are given the time to properly wash their hands.</p>	<p>Supervisors will document briefings/training. The documentation will include who was trained/briefed and what subjects were covered.</p> <p>Each work location will have access to soap and fresh clean water designated for personal hygiene.</p>

14. Remaining Risk Level After Control Measures Are Implemented: (CIRCLE HIGHEST REMAINING RISK LEVEL)

LOW
(Line Supervisor)

MEDIUM
(Branch Chief)

HIGH
(District Manager)

EXTREMELY HIGH
(Must be State Director/Associate)

15. RISK DECISION AUTHORITY: **(Approval/Authority Signature Block)** (If Initial Risk Level is Medium, High or Extremely High, Brief Risk Decision Authority at that level on Controls and Control Measures used to reduce risks) **(Note:** if the person preparing the form signs this block, the signature indicates only that the appropriate risk decision authority was notified of the initial risk level, control measures taken and appropriate resources requested; and that the risk was accepted by the decision authority.)

(Signature)

UNITED STATES
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET

1. Organization and Location DOI Bureau of Land Management	2. Page <u> 1 </u> of <u> 3 </u>		
3. Operation / Task Occupational Exposure to Dead or Diseased Animals or Areas of Potential Contamination. Direct Handling	4. Beginning Date:	5. Ending Date:	6. Date Prepared

7. Prepared by (Name / Duty Position)

8. Identified Hazards	9. Assess the Hazards: Initial Risk				10. Control Measures Developed for Identified Hazards: (Specific measures taken to reduce the probability of a hazard) Include all PPE	11. Assess the Hazard's Residual Risk:				12. How to Implement the Controls: (May Be Filled in By Hand)	13. Supervisors and Evaluation by: (Continuous Leader Checks, Buddy System, etc.)
(Be Specific)	L	M	H	E	(Be Specific)	L	M	H	E	(Be Specific)	(Be Specific)
Directly handling sick or dead animals or tissue.			X		Supervisors provide training to employees on the potential hazards of exposure to birds and other mammals that may be infected with WNV, what control measures are recommended for their area, and the dangers of spreading the disease.	X				Supervisors will use this Risk Assessment as well as any updated information from their area of operation to brief and train employees.	During a pandemic outbreak protection requirements may change frequently, supervisors will ensure that they keep themselves updated on changes.
Directly handles sick or dead birds or tissue associated with an unusual mortality event		X			Safe Work Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow established protocols for collection and/or disposal of animal carcasses. • Work in well-ventilated areas if working indoors. • Disinfect work surfaces and equipment between sites and when tasks are complete. • Properly dispose of potentially 		X			Supervisors will ensure that employees are provided with protective gloves, work in well ventilated areas [particularly when in doors] and have a 5% bleach solution or alcohol available to disinfect work surfaces	

			<p>infectious material including carcasses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash hands after handling animals • Obtain vaccination for seasonal influenza. • Monitor your health for clinical signs of WNV . <p>Contact your healthcare provider if you develop fever, flu-like symptoms or conjunctivitis and inform them prior to arrival that you have potentially been exposed to WNV.</p> <p>Personal Protective Equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubber, pvc, nitrile or latex gloves • Goggles • NIOSH approved particulate respirator, N95 or better. • Coveralls • Rubber boots or boot covers 			<p>and equipment.</p> <p>Required PPE will be provided to employees as required by this Risk Assessment; along with the equipment, supervisors will ensure that employees receive the proper training and medical surveillance required for respirator use.</p> <p>Proper receptacles for the disposal of dead animals and contaminated material will be provided.</p>	
Poor personal hygiene practices after potential exposure or contamination.			<p>Educate employees about importance of hand washing in controlling disease transmission. Hands should be washed frequently and after contact with contaminated surfaces, after removing gloves, after sneezing, using the bathroom, handling garbage, contact with wildlife, soils and similar activities, and before preparing or eating food, smoking, drinking, applying cosmetics, lip balm, or lotions.</p> <p>Handwashing technique – Remove rings and other jewelry. First wet your hands and apply liquid or clean bar soap. Place the bar soap on a rack and allow it to drain. Next rub you hands vigorously together and scrub all surfaces. Continue for 10-15 seconds. It is the soap combined with the scrubbing action that helps dislodge and remove germs. Rinse</p>			<p>Supervisors will conduct daily briefings to ensure that employees understand their responsibilities and to keep them informed of changing threats and risks.</p> <p>Supervisors will ensure that hand washing facilities are available and that employees are given the time to properly wash their hands.</p>	<p>Supervisors will document briefings/training. The documentation will include who was trained/briefed and what subjects were covered.</p> <p>Each work location will have access to soap and fresh clean water designated for personal hygiene.</p>

				well and dry your hands. Alcohol-based sanitizing hand rubs or sanitizing cloths may be used as a temporary solution when hand washing facilities are not available. Portable field hand washing facilities are easily rigged and transported.					
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14. Remaining Risk Level After Control Measures Are Implemented: (CIRCLE HIGHEST REMAINING RISK LEVEL)	LOW (Line Supervisor)	MEDIUM (Branch Chief)	HIGH (District Manager)	EXTREMELY HIGH (Must be State Director/Associate)
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15. RISK DECISION AUTHORITY: **(Approval/Authority Signature Block)** (If Initial Risk Level is Medium, High or Extremely High, Brief Risk Decision Authority at that level on Controls and Control Measures used to reduce risks) **(Note:** if the person preparing the form signs this block, the signature indicates only that the appropriate risk decision authority was notified of the initial risk level, control measures taken and appropriate resources requested; and that the risk was accepted by the decision authority.)

(Signature)



Interim Guidance for States Conducting Avian Mortality Surveillance for West Nile Virus (WNV) and/or Highly Pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza Virus

This guidance, which is directed to state health departments, supplements current *Guidelines for WNV Surveillance, Prevention, and Control* (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/resources/wnv-guidelines-aug-2003.pdf) and *An Early Detection System for Highly Pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza in Wild Migratory Birds: U.S. Interagency Strategic Plan* (www.doi.gov/issues/birdflu_strategicplan.pdf).

Surveillance of dead birds for WNV has proven useful for the early detection of WNV in the United States. In recent months, it has also proven useful for the early detection of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza A (HPAI H5N1, hereafter referred to as H5N1 virus) in Europe. Given the potential for H5N1 to infect wild birds in North America in the future, the following interim guidance is offered to support the efforts of states conducting avian mortality surveillance.

General Considerations for States Conducting Avian Mortality Surveillance

- If different agencies within a state are separately responsible for conducting surveillance for WNV or H5N1 among wild birds, the sharing of resources, including dead birds submitted for testing, may increase the efficiency of both systems.
- Any dead bird might be infected with any one of a number of zoonotic diseases currently present in the United States (US), such as WNV. However, in countries where H5N1 has been found in captive and wild birds, it frequently has resulted in multiple deaths within and across species, and if H5N1 enters the US, it is likely to result in the death of wild birds. If wild birds in the US are exposed to the virus, both single and groups of dead birds should be considered potentially infected.
- Avian mortality due to the introduction of H5N1 could occur at any time of the year, whereas WNV is more often detected when mosquitoes are active.
- To date, no human infections of WNV have been confirmed due to contact with live or dead wild birds in outdoor settings.
- Most human H5N1 cases overseas have been associated with close contact with infected poultry or their environment; however, a very small number of cases appear to be related to the handling of infected wild birds or their feathers or feces without the use of proper personal protective equipment (PPE). There is no evidence of H5N1 transmission to humans from exposure to H5N1 virus-contaminated water during swimming; however this may be theoretically possible.
([http:// www.who.int.water_sanitation_health/emerging/h5n1background.pdf](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/emerging/h5n1background.pdf))
- Although handling infected birds is unlikely to lead to infection, persons who develop an influenza-like illness after handling sick or dead birds should seek medical attention. Their health care provider should report the incident to public health agencies if clinical symptoms or laboratory test results indicate possible H5N1 or WNV infection.

Infection Control and Health and Safety Precautions

These guidelines are intended for any person handling dead birds. The risk of infection with WNV from such contact is small. The risk of infection with H5N1 from handling dead birds is difficult to quantify and is likely to vary with each situation. Risk is related to the nature of the work environment, the number of birds to be collected, and the potential for aerosolization of bird feces, body fluids, or other tissues. The most important factor that will influence the degree of infection risk from handling wild birds is whether H5N1 has been reported in the area. Local public health officials can be consulted to help in selecting the most appropriate PPE for the situation.

General Precautions for Collection of Single Dead Birds (These precautions are applicable to employees as well as the general public)

When collecting dead birds, the risk of infection from WNV, H5N1, or any other pathogen may be eliminated by avoiding contamination of mucous membranes, eyes, and skin by material from the birds. This can be accomplished by eliminating any direct contact with dead birds via use of the following safety precautions:

- When picking up any dead bird, wear disposable impermeable gloves and place it directly into a plastic bag. Gloves should be changed if torn or otherwise damaged. If gloves are not available, use an inverted double-plastic bag technique for picking up carcasses or use a shovel to scoop the carcass into a plastic bag.
- In situations in which the bird carcass is in a wet environment or in other situations in which splashing or aerosolization of viral particles is likely to occur during disposal, safety goggles or glasses and a surgical mask may be worn to protect mucous membranes against splashed droplets or particles.
- Bird carcasses should be double bagged and placed in a trash receptacle that is secured from access by children and animals. If the carcass will be submitted for testing, hold it a cool location until it pickup or delivery to authorities. Carcasses should not be held in close contact with food (e.g., not in a household refrigerator or picnic cooler).
- After handling any dead bird, avoid touching the face with gloved or unwashed hands.
- Any PPE that was used (e.g. gloves, safety glasses, mask) should be discarded or disinfected* when done, and hands should then be washed with soap and water (or use an alcohol-based hand gel when soap and water are not available). <http://www.cdc.gov/cleanhands/>
- If possible, before disposing of the bird, members of the public may wish to consult with their local animal control, health, wildlife or agricultural agency or other such entity to inquire whether dead bird reports are being tallied and if the dead bird in question might be a candidate for WNV or H5N1 testing.

Additional Precautions for Personnel Tasked with Collecting Dead Birds in Higher-Risk Settings (e.g., when collecting large numbers or in confined indoor spaces, particularly once H5N1 has been confirmed in an area)

- Minimize any work activities that generate airborne particles. For example, during the cleanup phase of the bird removal, avoid washing surfaces with pressurized water or cleaner (i.e., pressure washing), which could theoretically aerosolize H5N1 viral particles that could then be inhaled. If aerosolization is unavoidable, the use of a filtering face-piece respirator (e.g., N95) would be prudent, particularly while handling large quantities of dead birds repeatedly as part of regular work requirements.
- If using safety glasses, a mask, or a respirator, do not remove until after gloves have been removed and hands have been washed with soap and water (or use an alcohol-based hand gel when soap and water are not available). After PPE has been removed, hands should immediately be cleaned again. <http://www.cdc.gov/cleanhands/> Personal protective

equipment worn (e.g., gloves, mask, or clothing) should be disinfected* or discarded.

- Discuss appropriate biosafety practices and PPE use with your employer.

***Recommendations for PPE Disinfection**

For machine-washable, reusable PPE: Disinfect PPE in a washing machine with detergent in a normal wash cycle. Adding bleach will increase the speed of viral inactivation as will hot water but detergent alone in cold water will be effective. Follow manufacturer recommendations for drying the PPE.

Non machine-washable, reusable PPE should be cleaned following the manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning.

Laboratory Biosafety Recommendations

Laboratory handling of routine diagnostic specimens of avian carcasses requires a minimum of BSL-2 laboratory safety precautions. However, if either WNV or H5N1 infection of the specimens is suspected on the basis of previous surveillance findings, at a minimum BSL-3 precautions are advisable. Consult your institutional biosafety officer for specific recommendations. Biosafety levels are described at www.cdc.gov/od/ohs/biosfty/bmbl4/bmbl4s3.htm.

Additional Information Sources

Interim Guidance for Protection of Persons Involved in U.S. Avian Influenza Outbreak Disease Control and Eradication Activities <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/professional/protect-guid.htm>

Interim Guidelines for the Protection of Persons Handling Wild Birds with Reference to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 can be found at:

http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/wildlife_health_bulletins/WHB_05_03.jsp

Avian Influenza: Protecting Workers at Risk <http://www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib121304.html>