

WILDLIFE and LIVESTOCK ANIMAL CARCASS DISPOSAL

(Mississippi Board of Animal Health)

Standard Operating Procedure for Handling Carcass Disposal during a Natural Disaster

Proper disposal of one (1) or more carcasses and offal of all wildlife species and livestock except poultry and livestock and swine reared in confined animal operations.

1. Carcass (es) must be buried at a depth sufficient to prevent offensive odors, fly breeding, and unearthing by other animals, and shall be covered under at least two (2) feet of compacted earth. After each mound of earth settles, more dirt shall be placed over the surface to prevent "ponding" effect.
2. Carcass (es) shall be buried on the owner's property, or on another's property with specific approval of the owner, or in permitted landfills. The carcass (es) shall be buried at least 150 feet from adjoining landowners' property, at least 300 feet from an inhabited dwelling, or on land not in cultivation.
3. Alternative disposal options must be approved by the State Veterinarian and/or DEQ on a case by case basis.
4. In case of the disposal of large numbers of animal carcasses due to catastrophe, it will be necessary to contact the Board of Animal Health for approval of the disposal site. A trench or pit shall be constructed in such a manner not to allow rainwater to drain and must be approved by the State Veterinarian.

For further information, see the Mississippi Board of Animal Health's website, www.mbah.state.ms.us or call 1-888-722-3106.