

RISKS OF INFECTION FROM DEAD BODIES A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

After natural disasters, survivors frequently worry that disease outbreaks could be brought on by the bodies of the dead. This can occasionally result in the deceased being buried in an improper location without the victims' full identities being known. Such catastrophes include the 1998 hurricane Mitch in Central America, the 1999 cyclone in Orissa, India, and the 2001 and 2003 earthquakes in El Salvador and Turkey.

There isn't any proof that dead bodies after a natural disaster encourage the spread of diseases. It is doubtful that "epidemic-causing" acute illnesses will be more prevalent in disaster victims than in the overall population, indicating a low risk to the broader public. The same holds true for conventional battle deaths (as opposed to those resulting from chemical, biological, or radioactive warfare).

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