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Bag It!

This project is a study on pandemics and the possible outcome if a disease, such as the Avian Flu, were to be declared a pandemic. With the potential loss of millions in the world's population, the question of "what to do with the deceased's bodies?" is present. In a large city, storage for corpses would be overrun; in a rural area, storage is limited. Coroners and Emergency Management would be overwhelmed with the need to temporarily place corpses so the bodies could be preserved. Mass graves would be the most time efficient and cost effective. With the possibility of such a large death loss there would not be enough body bags or caskets to bury all the cadavers; therefore another alternative would need to be in place. Four different types of bags were tested to determine if a body could be stored for a temporary time until proper internment could take place. The bag would have to prevent scavengers from being attracted to them. The bags tested were white Glad trash bags, black Glad trash bags, clear trash bags, and Repellem trash bags. Meat not suitable for human consumption was placed in each bag, and each type of bag was buried, as well as placed on the open ground. Scavengers were noted, and results of which bags had the lesser damage was documented. In conclusion the hypothesis was supported; the Repellem bag was the least attractive to the scavengers.