

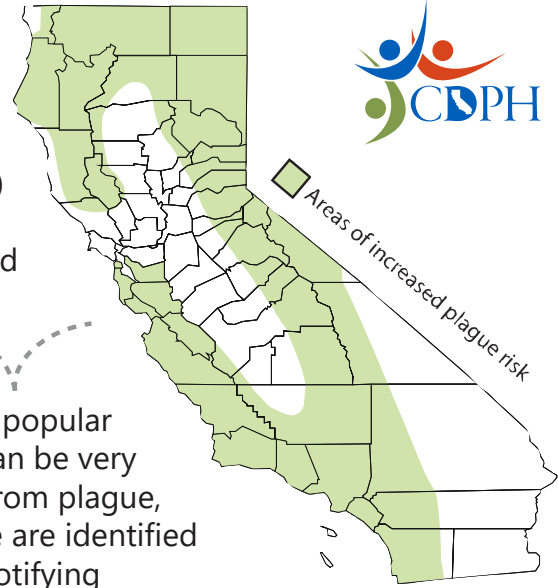
# Help Track Plague in California!

Report and submit dead rodents to the CA Department of Public Health



## What is plague?

Plague is a disease caused by *Yersinia pestis* bacteria that can infect humans, rodents, and other animals. Humans and their pets can get plague through the bite of infected fleas that live on wild rodents or in rodent burrows. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) works with National Forest, Park Service, and State Park personnel and campground staff in recreation areas to monitor commonly visited recreation areas for signs of plague.

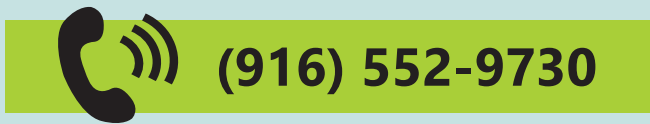


## Why monitor recreation areas?

The best way to protect people from plague is to proactively monitor popular recreation areas where rodents are common. In these areas, people can be very close to rodents and their fleas in the environment. Rodents can die from plague, which can be a sign that plague is active in the area. If signs of plague are identified early, preventative steps can be taken to protect the public, such as notifying residents/visitors and conducting flea control.

## How you can help!

If you find a dead rodent with no visible injury, or notice a large die-off or sudden absence of rodents in your area, contact CDPH right away:

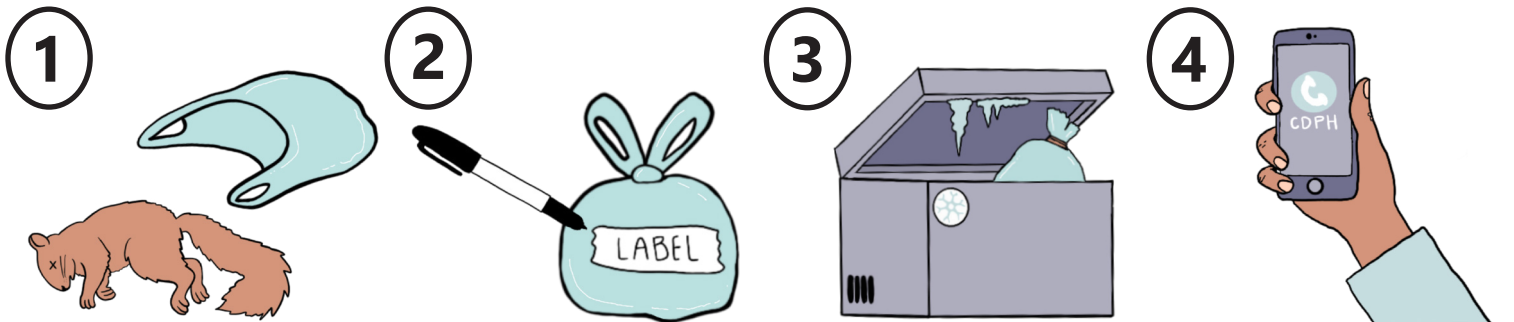


- CDPH will ask for additional information and may ask for your help in safely collecting the dead rodent for testing.
- After reporting, continue to look for signs of plague in the area, and caution visitors to avoid contact with rodents and fleas.

Rodents to look out for:



## How to Submit a Dead Rodent to CDPH:



Use gloves to collect dead rodent in clear bag. Or turn bag inside out to pick up carcass. One carcass per bag.

Seal and label bag with:

- Date/time
- Collection location
- Collector's name/agency

Double-bag and freeze or put on ice ASAP.

Contact CDPH for shipping instructions:

(916) 552-9730  
VBDS@cdph.ca.gov

