

FLORIDA BED BUG WORKGROUP

AUGUST 24, 2011

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Attendees: Jon Hamrick, Geoff Luebkemann, Phil Koehler, Mike Page, John Cooksey, Louis Witherington, Chip Guy, Mike Page, Mark Ruff, and Faith Oi.

Start: 1:12 pm

Purpose of this working group: to get ahead of the BB issue in Florida.

- Mike Page: problem with home owners self-treating. Gross misapplication of product. Panama City case. Grandparents with custody of grandkids; grandfather disabled. EUP.

Action items:

- Contact someone from apartment association and DPBR.
- Next meeting via webinar: Sept. 13, 2011; Tuesday; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.
- Presentations from today to be submitted to Mike Page in pdf to post on DACS website
- Mike Page will develop next agenda for distribution

Handout distributed: 2011 NPMA Bed Bug Survey Executive Summary

Welcome and introductions

Presentations

- “Bed Bug Biology Lite”—Dr. Koehler
 - Disappeared in the 1950’s
 - Probably OPs responsible for disappearance, in PGK’s opinion, not DDT
 - Australia—BBs going down because of access to diazinon
 - Most chemicals are pyrethroids
 - Some strains are completely resistant
 - Malathion, diazinon – more effective chemicals are not allowed.
 - Bed bugs are not only found in beds
 - BBs are flattened, prefer cracks about 1 mm—until they get a blood meal
 - BB eggs are about 1 mm long, laid in groups of about 200 in female life time
 - Nymphs—transparent in color and easily overlooked
 - Adult, about 3/16th inch long. Need full blood meal, each stage—about 1 hour of feeding for each adult. Usual longevity about 32-48 days.
 - About 750,000 BBs to drain one adult.
 - Proboscis
 - Bites
 - First bite, about 10-14 days for reaction
 - Prefer to bite without crawling on host
 - Medical importance—sometimes no reaction
 - Mostly itching
 - Allergic reaction, skin reactions resulting in hives and fluid-filled rashes
 - No proven disease transmission

- Joint statement by CDC—serious public health pest.
 - Can crawl about 4 ft/ min and nymphs can crawl of
 - BB legs are different than CR legs—BB can't crawl smooth surfaces, no tarsal pads
 - BB aggregate
 - 15 BB nymphs in drywall screw
 - BBs found everywhere
 - If model of 90% survival, at 9 weeks start to see exponential growth, so quarterly inspections that hotel goes through is not enough to stem a large infestation
 - Who is responsible FS 83.51—the landlord of a dwelling unit other than a single-family home or duplex shall, at all times during the tenancy, make reasonable provisions for: 1. The extermination of
 - NPMA BMPs
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- “Canine Detection of Bed Bugs”—Faith; Powerpoint submitted
- “Bed Bug Treatments”—John Cooksey—talk from NPMA BMPs
 - Pest Management firms should strive to remain current on the rapidly evolving technology of managing BBs
 - Should provide certain information before beginning any kind of service
 - McCall BB Service Agreement
 - Clear cost of service, including additional services.
 - Type of service to expect (number of visits, length of time until control)
 - Details of service, including info about tools, methods and tactics to be used
 - Prep required by client.
 - Realistic expectations
 - Multiple methods available, combinations can work effectively
 - Conventional treatment alone—insecticides
 - Pesticide effective, but might miss some BBs
 - May need to discard mattresses, box springs, upholstered furniture
 - Cost of mattress encasements
 - Follow-up
 - Vikane fumigation—great for large projects
 - Resistance from municipalities
 - Stationary heat treatments, still might miss some—requires follow ups
 - Option 1—heat treatment with insecticide application
 - Need heating equipment
 - Client preparation
 - Need to remove some things like X-Boxes and big screen TVs.
 - Apply residual first?
 - Apply residual again!
 - Whole process is at least 6 hours for an apt, ~\$1,200.
 - Liquid, dust
 - Box for “do not heat”
 - Gatorade
 - Client prep letter and/or DVD

- Policy if instructions not followed
 - Use lowest rate –can bring dogs in
- Option 2 – Conventional treatment
 - Inspect and plan
 - Mattress—discard, encase, treat
 - Sofas and upholstered furniture
 - Insecticidal application—min 2X
 - Client prep: laundered and bagged—
 - Closets and chests of drawers empty
 - Discard furniture
 - Render not useful
 - Protect-a-bed
- Option 3 – Conventional treatment plus Vapona
 - Vapona—Nuvan strips
 - Good for things can't heat treat
 - Place in box
 - 7 days to kill eggs

PGK: Heating Nuvan strips is undergoing review. Not the same penetration as a true fumigant.

- “Assessing Florida’s Bed Bug Problem”—Mike Page
 - DBPR Division of hotels and restaurants—needs to be at the table
 - Why of concerns—physical and emotional trauma
 - Economic concerns
 - Ave treat: 2.25
 - Lost revenue
 - Number of complaints—when landlords evict someone, take their furniture and sell to someone else.
 - Pesticide risk management issue
 - Consumer fraud
 - Lack of standardization, efficacious management methods and intense concern about BBs
 - Education and prevention may be the more effective ways to protect FLs economy
 - Will require Floridians to develop a heightened “BB awareness”.
 - Develop a consistent message targeted toward BB awareness (behavioral change)
 - Disseminate educational information to the public on sound BB management principles
 - Relevant to prevention and control (IPM!)
 - Encourage the use of safe, effective control measures (25(b) products; use of licensed PMPs)
 - Coordinate consumer protection activities
 - Develop training for state and local government personnel/inspectors on how to
 - avoid contact with bed bugs and as messengers to disseminate information related to the prevention of and control of bed bugs
 - Develop/recommend bed bug inspection standards for the use of K9 sentdogs.

- Develop recommendations for post treatment and monitoring (prevent reinfestation from occurring).
 - Address the rights and responsibilities of landlords, tenants and homeowners.
 - Develop a series of pamphlets/brochures that help people know how to react to and control bed bugs.
 - Develop materials for reacting to and treating specific instances, such as for homeowners, hotels, movie theaters, transit, schools (day care), assisted living and nursing homes and other medical establishments.
 - Develop materials specifically for professionals that potentially will come into contact with bed bugs.
 - Develop a means of tracking and reporting bed bug infestations to help control the spread of bed bugs that will help identify trends in areas where resources can be focused to prevent the spread of this pest.
- Who needs to be involved?
 - DACS
 - DOH
 - DOE
 - DBPR
 - ...
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- “Bed Bug Litigation”—Mark Ruff. Main issues are:
 - Fraud
 - Negligent misrepresentation and breach of contract issues
- Geoff L—would like:
 - One stop “shopping” website for bed bug information
 - Myth vs. reality
 - Comprehensive FAQ
 - Academic
 - Consumer
 - Industry
 - Managing public expectation
- Phil: From a rental agency—how do you know if someone sprayed something on your furniture? Chip: don’t know.
- Mark: What are we going to do on this committee—produce BMPs?
- Mike: Pretty well taken care of with NPMA BMPs, but will go over them.
- Set next meeting: Sept 13, 2011; 10 am-12 pm via webinar hosted by Mike Page

4:14 pm Adjourned