

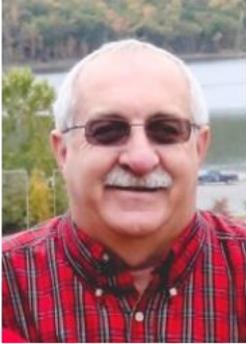


OPMA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

March 2020

President's Message

Dennis Wallace -President



Welcome to the OPMA quarterly newsletter! We plan to publish the newsletter in March, June, September, and December.

We are in uncharted territory with the COVID-19 virus. The National Pest Management

Association issued a letter on March 17th. The entire memo is attached to this newsletter. Feel free to use this letter as you deem appropriate.

I have had several calls from our members asking how everyone is dealing with the situation. Many companies are strictly treating the exterior of the property. When an interior treatment is required, in addition to wearing gloves (as always), technicians should be prepared to wear a respirator and a mask. These may be required per the individual company or requested by the customer. Some of the larger companies report they are separating the office staff from the technicians to reduce contact.

We all hope the situation clears quickly and things get back to normal. In the meantime, we need to use common sense in providing our customers with the service they deserve

Annual Conference

When: September 17-18, 2020

Where: Reed Conference Center, 5800 Will Rogers Rd, Midwest City, OK

- Dr Bob - Termite
- Dr Reed Isper - Beetles
- Doc Mitchell – Flies (2 sessions)
- Dr Brad Kard - Termite
- Dr Hal Reid - Wasps
- Dr. Michael Bentley- NPMA update
- Kevin Shelton - Safety
- Kevin Shelton & Dept Ag - Updates
- Kaput Rep (Kevin) – Moles & Gophers

Watch for the agenda to be posted in the June newsletter.

Board Members

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NEW BED BUG HEAT LAW!

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-85.1 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

- A. Only commercial applicators shall perform heat as a method of pest control.
- B. Heat as a method of pest control may be used to treat and control bed bugs or other insects in:
 - 1. A whole structure;
 - 2. An apartment unit, a room or a portion of a room; and
 - 3. A compartment containing furniture and possessions.
- C. Prior to and when conducting heat as a method of pest control, commercial applicators shall:
 - 1. Comply with applicable fire codes, and local ordinances regarding the use of portable heaters, fire suppression systems and other heat treatment related concerns;
 - 2. Only use equipment designed and tested for use as an insect control device for a whole structure, whole room or apartment unit bed bug heat treatment;
 - 3. Carefully inspect heat equipment before use to ensure that it is in

- proper working order and no foreseeable fire hazards exist;
- 4. When conducting whole room heat treatment, ensure that the equipment has the capacity to raise and hold the temperature in the treated area to a level lethal to bed bugs of at least one hundred twenty (120) degrees Fahrenheit;
- 5. Ensure, through the use of heat sensors, that bed bug harborage areas are raised to a lethal temperature of at least one hundred twenty (120) degrees Fahrenheit and held for a sufficient period of time to kill all bed bugs and eggs depending on the size of the area being treated;
- 6. Place sensors in areas that are insulated or slower to heat to ensure the lethal temperature is reached;
- 7. Monitor ambient air and surface temperature to avoid damage to heat sensitive items; and
- 8. Have at least one commercial applicator on-site and have one or more additional employees working under the direct supervision of a commercial applicator.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.



March 17, 2020

Dear _____:

The professional pest control industry, an essential service, is responsible for the protection of public health, food and property. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have prepared a list of significant public health pests <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/list-pests-significant-public-health-importance>, many of which are controlled by the professional pest control industry. We play a vital role in protecting our nation's public health and food supply. Pests can spread diseases such as West Nile virus, Lyme disease, salmonellosis, hantavirus and encephalitis. Stinging insects force half a million people to the emergency room every year. Cockroach and rodent allergens trigger asthma attacks in children; rodents contaminate or consume about 20% of the world's food supply and bed bugs can cause allergic reactions. The importance of the pest control industry to the nation as an essential service cannot be understated.

Additionally, the pest control industry is trained, tested and certified in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Technicians routinely employ the use respirators, eye protection, gloves, and clothing to conform with safety requirements established by EPA and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. With over 135,000 service technicians on the ground in the United States backed by over 19,000 companies, we stand ready to continue our fight against pests and diseases. With Covid-19 on the mind of all US citizens, and the world, we want to be sure we continue to serve the country in our battle with the diseases spread by pests.

As an essential service industry, we will continue to service the nation's food production facilities, grocery stores, medical institutions, multifamily housing units, warehouses, homes and businesses. We cannot afford to have our medical facilities, groceries stores or homes uninhabitable due to pests and pest related diseases, particularly as we tell citizens to stay home. There is not a segment of the food industry that could comply with federal sanitation and health regulations without an adequate pest control program.

As you consider next steps regarding emergency response and potential restrictions on business operations in your state, we respectfully request that the pest control industry be recognized as an essential industry, providing a service that is indispensable in the effort to protect public health and our nation's food supply.

Appended below is the language that was used in San Francisco and the California municipalities that have shelter in place orders.

For the purposes of this Order, "Essential Businesses" means: i. Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure; ii. Grocery stores, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands,

supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other nongrocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences; iii. Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing; iv. Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals; v. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services; vi. Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities; vii. Banks and related financial institutions; viii. Hardware stores; ix. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dny 7 Stumpf".

Dominique Stumpf
National Pest Management Association
Cell: 703.887.1089