

Local Government Advisory

Please be advised that Luzerne County is cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Bureau of Forestry, in conducting a gypsy moth suppression project in certain forested sections of Rice Twp this spring. Since a portion of the spraying is being conducted within the jurisdictional boundaries of your municipality, you may get questions from residents regarding the spraying. We are asking your cooperation in notifying them of commonsense precautions to take if in a treatment area during spraying.

The insecticide being used on residential properties is *Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki* (Bt), a biological insecticide which has no known adverse human health or environmental impacts. The insecticide will be applied by aircraft, either helicopter or fixed wing, flying approximately 50 feet above the treetops between late April and late May.

To avoid the possibility of eye irritation, persons should not look up as the spray droplets are descending. If eye irritation does occur, an eye wash should be used and the family physician consulted. If the material gets on the skin, soap and water are sufficient to remove it.

To make spot removal as easy as possible, vehicles which are exposed to the spray deposit should be washed as soon as possible. If the deposit has dried, soaking a towel with a car wash soap and water will rehydrate the Bt and can then be removed by wiping with a towel or cloth.

You may contact the local Bureau of Forestry office if you need additional information on the insecticides being used or the timing of the spraying in your area:

Pinchot State Forest District Office
Nicholas Lylo – District Forester
1839 Abington Road
North Abington Twp, PA 18414
Tel: 570-945-7133

Thank you for your cooperation in this project.

Sincerely,

Keri Skvarla
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Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator
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cc: AFPMS
FPM Main Office