

**Welcome** to the new *PREP Update* newsletter. With this new format, PREP will share valuable information, contacts and current happenings with RMs and PCOs regarding information relevant to rat control in our province. Twice a year, Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter, the *PREP Update* will be circulated to all RMs and PCOs. PREP asks that RMs share this information with your PCOs to ensure they don't miss out and are PREP Updated!

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### **Hantavirus Risks – Be Prepared – Be Safe**

PREP is asking RMs to ensure all PCOs and ratepayers are aware of the risks and the steps they can take to protect themselves from the deadly Hantavirus.

Valuable information and precautions with respect to the Hantavirus can be found on the Ministry of Health website at <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/live/health-and-healthy-living/health-topics-awareness-and-prevention/diseases-and-disorders>. Another valuable resource to check out is the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety - Hantavirus Information that can be found at: <http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/diseases/hantavir.html>.

*If the browser links above does not work for you please copy and paste the link directly into your browser.*

### **SARM Liability Self-Insurance Plan – Coverage for Pest Control Officers**

Under the SARM Liability Self-Insurance Plan ("LSIP"), the pest control officer who has been appointed by the RM, is covered under the RM's policy while acting within the scope of their duties on behalf of the RM and provided that they have a valid Pesticide Applicator Licence.

Municipalities are given the authority to appoint Pest Control Officers by section 13 of The Pest Control Act, R.S.S. 1978, c. P-7 ("the Act"). Each RM appoints its own Pest Control Officer. The resolution making the appointment must name the individual who will actually exercise the powers under the Act.

It makes no difference if the individual is employed by a regional committee or board, as long as they have been appointed by the RM. If, for example, the PCO is being paid by a regional committee/board such as an ADD Board, they will still be covered under the RM's policy (with LSIP) when performing their duties for the RM.

If the RM does not have its insurance with the SARM Liability Self-Insurance Plan, they should check with their insurer.

### **Importance of Contracts between RMs and PCOs**

As with any job/position, it is important to have a contract between parties laying out the guidelines and expectations of any job. This is no different when hiring a Pest Control Officer. PREP has available sample PCO Employment Contracts on their website at <http://prep.sarm.ca/rat-control-resources>. When an RM appoints an individual as a PCO, to act on their behalf when enforcing *The Pest Control Act*, a contract in place between the RM and the PCO serves to clarify duties, expectations and remuneration for all parties involved.

### **PEST CONTROL OFFICERS Seminar – June 10th & 11th**

PREP encourages RMs to send their PCO's to attend the 2015 Annual SPCOA Seminar in Moose Jaw on June 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> at the Heritage Inn. There will be valuable information provided as well a great opportunity for networking within the organization. PREP Board members will be available to answer any questions relating to the new PREP Statement of Compliance or the program in its entirety.

Registration and the Agenda for the SPCOA Seminar can be found on the SPCOA website at <http://www.spcoa.org> or on the PREP website at <http://prep.sarm.ca>.

### **WHO IS THIS STRANGER coming into my yard?**

**Identify yourself!** Did you know the SARM Trading Department has available magnetic Pest Control Officer signs that PCOs can easily put on their vehicle doors when acting on behalf of the RM? For a minimal cost, the RM or PCO can order these signs from Amanda Kozak, Trading Department Manager, at [akozak@sarm.ca](mailto:akozak@sarm.ca). Pest Control Officers who are identified before stepping out of the vehicle are more likely to have the cooperation of the landowner making their visit a more productive and safe one.

### **2015 PREP Statement of Compliance – Claim Deadline December 31, 2015**

In 2015-16, the Provincial Rat Eradication Program (PREP) once again has received funding to \$1.4 million for this program year. Program forms and guidelines are available on the PREP website at [prep.sarm.ca](http://prep.sarm.ca) and claim deadline for this program year is **December 31, 2015**.

In order for an RM to be eligible for the PREP grant the following minimum level of service must be provided:

- An RM must have a Pest Control Officer (PCO) with a valid Pesticide Applicator's License.
- **Each site within an RM where agriculture produce is (or was) stored or where livestock or poultry are housed (or have been housed) must be inspected by the licensed PCO at least once a year. This includes both occupied and abandoned sites.**
- The RM must provide reports as required by SARM, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Federal Government under *Growing Forward 2*.

Ensure your RM is compliant and able to receive funding by following the Program Guidelines which include the requirements for eligibility, lists **eligible expenses** to be claimed, along with the resources PREP makes available to RMs each year.

**PCO’s receive assistance from PREP Supervisors**

Should the RM or PCO find they are unable to complete the requirements of PREP guidelines, don’t hesitate to contact Grant Peeling, PCO Provincial Coordinator, as PREP can assist with the necessary resources to ensure your RM is in compliance.

If you require assistance please contact the PCO Supervisor located in your SARM Division:

- Division 1: Henry Fieseler- 306-743-2755
- Division 2: Ryan Budd- 306-631-7350
- Division 3: Stewart Biech- 306-778-0715
- Division 4: Dennis Friend- 306-528-4320
- Division 5: Neil Mooney- 306-934-4782
- Division 6: George Dresser- 306-228-3184

**PCO Provincial Coordinator, Grant Peeling – 306-631-7141**

**2015 PREP Board Members**

*The PREP Board is made up of elected RM officials who set program parameters and deal with issues that arise with rural municipalities, ADD Boards, government, and others. They focus on developing effective policies and procedures to eradicate rats in Saskatchewan.*

Division 1:	Teresa Walker	306-435-7224	<a href="mailto:teresa.walker@sasktel.net">teresa.walker@sasktel.net</a>
Division 2:	Ray Beck (Chair)	306-436-7405	<a href="mailto:norlandcreek@sasktel.net">norlandcreek@sasktel.net</a>
Division 3:	Bill Owens	306-962-7462	<a href="mailto:bill259@sasktel.net">bill259@sasktel.net</a>
Division 4:	Kelvin Holowaty	306-269-7766	<a href="mailto:kelvin.h@sasktel.net">kelvin.h@sasktel.net</a>
Division 5:	John Serhienko	306-497-4008	<a href="mailto:dustydog@xplornet.com">dustydog@xplornet.com</a>
Division 6:	Gerald Gerlinsky	306-843-2902	<a href="mailto:sw13acres@gmail.com">sw13acres@gmail.com</a>
SPCOA:	Grant Peeling	306-631-7141	<a href="mailto:gpeeling@sasktel.net">gpeeling@sasktel.net</a>
Ministry of Agriculture:	Richard Wilkins	306-787-5207	<a href="mailto:richard.wilkins@gov.sk.ca">richard.wilkins@gov.sk.ca</a>
SARM Board of Directors:	Carmen Sterling	306-861-1097	<a href="mailto:sarm.sterling@sasktel.net">sarm.sterling@sasktel.net</a>

***A final note from Grant Peeling, PCO Provincial Coordinator...***

*“I hope you are all having fun doing your rounds so far this year. Problems to report are very few but always remember the safety of everyone is of the utmost importance! If you require any assistance be sure to call me or your PREP Division Supervisor and we will be able to help. I am looking forward to meeting everyone at the SPCOA Convention in Moose Jaw.”*

**RAT Fact:** Rats have excellent memories. Once they learn a navigation route, they won't forget it.