

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2017 issue of the *PREP Update* newsletter; sharing 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!

KNOW THE RISKS and BE SAFE! With spring and summer upon us, PREP reminds everyone to take the necessary precautions against diseases transmitted not only by rats and mice but the ticks and mosquitos as well.

The conditions we mainly hear about in Saskatchewan include Hantavirus, Lyme disease and West Nile virus.

HANTAVIRUS (<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/hantaviruses.html>):

Exposure to Hantavirus can cause a rare but often fatal disease called Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS). HPS can progress rapidly into serious complications which include the following symptoms: abnormal fall in blood pressure, lungs filling with fluid and severe respiratory failure. There have been 30 cases of Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome reported in Saskatchewan since 1994, 10 of which resulted in death.

LYME Disease (<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/lyme-disease.html>);
<https://www.healthwise.net/saskhealthlineonline/Content/StdDocument.aspx?DOCHWID=hw77226>):

Lyme disease is an infectious disease spread through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks (or deer ticks in southeastern and south-central regions of Canada). The risk of getting a tick bite starts when the weather warms up in the spring, through until the fall. Ticks need blood to survive, so they attach on animals and humans to feed. Ticks become infected with Lyme disease bacteria by feeding on infected wild animals, such as birds or rodents. Once infected, ticks can spread the bacteria to humans and pets, particularly dogs. In most cases, the infected tick must attach and feed for at least 24 hours before the bacteria can be transmitted.

Symptoms of Lyme disease can be different from person to person and can be difficult to diagnose as they mimic other conditions. Early signs and symptoms of Lyme disease usually start 3 to 30 days after you have been bitten by an infected blacklegged tick. Most people experience mild flu-like symptoms soon after being bitten, while a small number may have more serious symptoms, sometimes weeks after the bite. Early signs and symptoms of Lyme disease may include a distinctive expanding, red 'bull's-eye' rash, fever, chills, headache, fatigue, muscle and joint aches and swollen lymph nodes. Later symptoms may include dizziness, abnormal heartbeat, mental confusion or inability to think clearly (brain fog), nervous system disorders (involving the brain, nerves and spinal cord).

The main treatment for Lyme disease is antibiotics. These medicines usually cure Lyme disease within 3 weeks of starting treatment.

It's important to get treatment for Lyme disease as soon as you can. If it goes untreated, Lyme disease can lead to problems with your skin, joints, nervous system, and heart. These can occur weeks, months, or even years after your tick bite. The problems often get better with antibiotics, but in rare cases they can last the rest of your life.

WESTNILE (<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/west-nile-virus.html>):

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause disease in anyone. Most people who become infected experience no symptoms or have very mild illness (fever, headaches, body aches, mild rash, swollen lymph glands). However, the virus can result in serious neurological illness such as encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) which can have long-term complications. Serious symptoms can include rapid onset of severe headache, high fever, stiff neck, nausea or vomiting (sometimes both), difficulty swallowing, drowsiness, confusion. You can also get serious symptoms like loss of consciousness, lack of coordination, muscle weakness, paralysis. Some severe cases of the disease can be fatal. *There is no cure for West Nile Virus.*

READ the LABELS How often do you ignore the label of a product you are using? Did you realize that a label is a legal document? With pesticides, you are required to follow the directions or you put yourself and others, animals and the environment at risk. Here is some important information you will find on a label:

Trade or product name. There are many brands on the market for similar products but they may have the same active ingredient.

Classification. This tells you what the product is intended for: domestic, commercial, or restricted use. There are laws over who can handle and apply these products based on the classification.

Pesticide type. This tells you what the product is used for and what type of pest it targets.

Common Name for Active Ingredient. This is important to know especially when dealing with toxicity and if you or someone else requires medical attention because of the product.

Formulation. This is the physical form of the pesticide, which could be a concentrate, liquid, pellets or blocks.

Directions for use. The label tells you how to use the product properly.

Hazard or Precautionary Symbol. These symbols indicate how the product should be safely handled and the possible risks. No symbol means the risk is low.

Environmental precautions. This outlines buffer zones required when applying the chemical, and things like the toxicity to fish and wildlife.

First Aid. This part tells you what you need to do if you have a reaction or experience poisoning.

Toxicological information. This will give you a list of symptoms if poisoned, antidote and or remedial measures. It may list other ingredients that might affect treatment.

Pest Control Product Registration Number. It looks like this: Registration No. X Pest Control Products Act.

Don't gamble with your health and safety by mishandling pesticides. Pesticide labels are there to protect you and the manufacturer from misuse.

Pesticide Label App... **Did you know** Health Canada has released a new pesticide label search tool for mobile devices for pesticides that have been registered for use in Canada? The free app, [Pesticide Labels](#), is available via [Apple's iTunes App Store](#), [Google Play](#) and from [Amazon Apps](#).

[Health Canada provides several recommendations](#) regarding how best to search the app for pesticide labels. The app also allows users to save downloaded labels onto their mobile device, so growers can carry the labels with them even when they are out of cellular range.

This app will help homeowners, farmers, industry, as well as provincial and federal organizations look up specific pesticide label instructions from the convenience of their smartphone or tablet. With this user-friendly tool, users can access the most up-to-date health and safety information right at their fingertips. In addition, users will be able to save their searches as well as download product labels to their 'Favourites' for access, even when they are offline. The pesticide label database can be searched based on various factors including product name, chemical or pest. Pesticide labels have important detailed instructions and warnings that must be followed to protect your health and the environment. Information on product labels include detailed directions for use, safety precautions, first aid statements, and disposal instructions.

Quick Facts

- Pesticides are strictly regulated in Canada. All pesticides must undergo a science-based review prior to being approved for sale in Canada.
- Some pesticide products are available for use by the public in and around the home, while others are available to certified professionals for commercial use, such as in agriculture, forestry and other industrial applications.
- When using pesticides, individuals must read and follow all label directions.
- Health Canada's primary objective in regulating pesticides is to protect the health and safety of Canadians and their environment.

Visit the Health Canada website at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/registrant-titulaire/tools-outils/label-etiq-eng.php>

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.

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.

RMs and PCO's receive technical 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- 306-743-7875
- Division 2: Ryan Budd- 306-631-7350
- Division 3: Stewart Biech- 306-778-0715
- Division 4: Colette Melnychuk- 306-269-7067
- Division 5: Neil Mooney- 306-934-4782
- Division 6: George Dresser- 306-228-3184

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

2017 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	teresa.walker@sasktel.net
Division 2:	Ray Beck (Chair)	306-436-7405	norlandcreek@sasktel.net
Division 3:	Bill Owens	306-962-7462	bill259@sasktel.net
Division 4:	Mike Yaskowich	306-554-7477	mayasko@hotmail.com
Division 5:	John Serhienko	306-497-4008	dustydog@xplornet.com
Division 6:	Gerald Gerlinsky	306-843-2902	sw13acres@gmail.com
SPCOA:	Grant Peeling	306-631-7141	gpeeling@sasktel.net
Ministry of Agriculture:	Richard Wilkins	306-787-5207	richard.wilkins@gov.sk.ca
SARM Board of Directors:	Carmen Sterling	306-861-1097	sarm.sterling@sasktel.net

RAT Fact: Rats' tails help them to balance, communicate and regulate their body temperature.



SAFTEY is PRIORITY #1

Is your RM taking steps to **PROTECT** your **PCO**?

The Saskatchewan Pest Control Officers Association (SPCOA) has *high quality, all season* **Hi Viz Bomber Jacket** (with Fleece Zip Out Liner) *available for purchase immediately.*



ANSI/ISEA 107-2015 Class 3. Warm zip-out fleece liner. Waterproof coated polyester with fully taped seams. New and improved lining with reinforced stitching for increased durability. Concealed detachable hood. Mic tabs on left and right chest. Left and right inner chest pockets. Outer cell phone pocket and lower fleece lined zipper pockets. Rugged YKK main zipper. Sewn-on reflective striping for lasting durability.

Order by September 1, 2017 for special bulk discount order pricing of *approximately \$100 (plus taxes)*. This pricing will include freight and brokerage fees. *A minimum order of 50 jackets must be placed by September 1, 2017 to take advantage of this discount pricing.*

To ORDER please provide the following information (please print clearly):

JACKET SIZE: Medium Large XLarge XXLarge

NAME: _____

RM of _____ **No.** _____

Billing Information: _____

RM Administrator's Signature (if billing to RM) _____

Shipping Information: same as above or

To order by Sept. 1st, check out samples or for questions contact:

Grant Peeling at **306-631-7141** or email: gpeeling@sasktel.net

or **Ryan Budd** at 306-631-7350, email: spcoa@hotmail.com