

MEDIA RELEASE

19th January 2005

Two kilometre Buffer Surveys to monitor the European House Borer.

Householders in Parkerville, Gidgegannup, Mahogany Creek, Darlington, Mundaring, Stoneville, Mt Helena, Sawyers Valley, Chidlow, Walliston, Lesmurdie, Carmel, Bickley, Henley Brook, West Swan, Ellenbrook, Bullsbrook, West Bullsbrook, Vale, Serpentine, Oldbury, Southern River, Huntingdale, Gosnells and Murdoch can expect a knock on the door from technical support officers monitoring selected Perth suburbs for the presence of European House Borer.

“Teams of officers will be conducting surveys to ask people if they have seen any evidence of the borer and also to check dead and untreated pine for EHB,” said EHB Program Director Lisa Christy. “Where people are not home a letter and fact sheet will be left in their mailbox.”

When the exotic pest, which targets untreated pine, was identified in Parkerville in January 2004, the State Government established an EHB Program team, managed by the Forest Products Commission and the Department of Agriculture, to investigate the extent of EHB in Western Australia.

In close consultation with other government departments and industry groups the EHB Program has developed a monitoring system to assess the extent of the pest. So far evidence of EHB has been found in 13 suburbs.

“Thus far there is no evidence EHB is in house roofs. It is important for people to help us by looking for signs of the EHB so we can monitor it.

“As part of the surveillance and containment activities, the program has employed additional staff to investigate all properties within a 2km radius of each known affected site.

“The program is also managing the removal and destruction of infested materials in specific sites identified through the surveillance activities.

“The most obvious signs of EHB infestation are oval shape emergence holes in the timber, running in line with the grain of the wood. Sometimes the dust and droppings can be seen on the floor below the timber where an adult has emerged.

“The borer tunnels through the wood, packing its tunnels, or galleries, with wood dust and droppings as it goes, and as it nears the surface, narrow blisters along the grain of the wood may be seen.

“Where there are exposed untreated pine beams or pine products, the borer may also be heard chewing the timber.”

Ms Christy said anyone who suspected the presence of European House Borer in dead pine trees, untreated pine timber or pine furniture or goods, should contact the Freecall Hotline to arrange an expert examination.

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EHB
PROGRAM



*European
House Borer*



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More information about European House Borer is available online at www.ehb.wa.gov.au or by calling the Freecall Hotline on 1800 084 881.

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Media Inquiries - Deanne Johnson 9366 2355

Contact the freecall hotline 1800 084 881 for further information

