



**NPTA**  
national pest  
technicians association

**ISSUE**  
**02**

**NEWSLETTER**

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## **NPTA NEWSLETTER**

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**Welcome to the second edition of your monthly newsletter. This month the focus is mainly on wasps and bees and the potential consequences of their treatment, with a particular look at anaphylactic shock.** Whilst it is easy to become blasé about treating wasps and bees, we need to ensure that we do not lose sight of their life-threatening potential. Although this may sound dramatic, the editor knows from firsthand experience how dangerous a sting can be. An operative, who had never been stung before, was treating a wasp nest (it turned out fortunately) at a hospital. Despite wearing PPE he managed to get stung removing his protection (a lesson there?). He consequently collapsed within minutes and had to be given lifesaving adrenaline. Had he not been at a hospital, the outcome may have been very different.

We again pick up on the theme of bee treatments, this time focusing on non-lethal methods of control. Given the removal of bees from the Ficam D label, it is possible if not likely that other pesticides will follow suit when they undergo re-registration. Finally, with PestTech 2019 looming, we have an article on what can be expected at what promises to be the best event ever.

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### **Pest controller, 48, died after being stung by a wasp for the tenth time in two weeks**

A pest controller died after being stung by a wasp during a routine call out, despite never previously having an allergic reaction, an inquest heard.

Married step-father of three, Lee Darker, 48, had an anaphylactic shock and was pronounced dead after being found

slumped in the passenger seat of his van on September 17th last year.

A coroner's court in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, heard the sting triggered an allergic reaction known as anaphylaxis.

The court also heard the pest control technician, who had no known allergies, had been stung nine times by wasps two weeks earlier on a different job and had not suffered any symptoms.



Catch up with the latest info on the NPTA Facebook page

# What Do You Know About Anaphylactic Shock?



The tragic death of Mitie Technician Lee Darker last year from anaphylactic shock underlines the risks that every pest technician who is involved with stinging insect control faces. As we go into the height of the wasp and hornet control season, it is worth reflecting on what anaphylactic shock is and how it could affect you – at any time.

## What is anaphylactic shock?

For some people with severe allergies, when they're exposed to something they're allergic to, they may experience a potentially life-threatening reaction called anaphylaxis. As a result, their immune system releases chemicals that flood the body. This can lead to anaphylactic shock.

When your body goes into anaphylactic shock, your blood pressure suddenly drops and your airways narrow, possibly blocking normal breathing.

**This condition is dangerous. If it isn't treated immediately, it can result in serious complications and even be fatal.**

## What are the symptoms of anaphylactic shock?

You'll experience symptoms of anaphylaxis before anaphylactic shock sets in. These symptoms shouldn't be ignored.

Symptoms of anaphylaxis include:

- skin reactions such as hives, flushed skin, or paleness
- suddenly feeling too warm
- feeling like you have a lump in your throat or difficulty swallowing
- nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- abdominal pain
- a weak and rapid pulse
- runny nose and sneezing
- swollen tongue or lips
- wheezing or difficulty breathing
- a sense that something is wrong with your body
- tingling hands, feet, mouth, or scalp

If you think you're experiencing anaphylaxis, seek medical attention immediately. If anaphylaxis has progressed to anaphylactic shock, the symptoms include:

- struggling to breathe
- dizziness
- confusion
- sudden feeling of weakness
- loss of consciousness

## What are the causes and risk factors of anaphylaxis?

There are many things which could cause this, including certain pharmaceuticals and foods, but for pest controllers, the main potential hazard is, of course, insect stings.

The risk of anaphylactic shock occurring is increased if you:

- have had a previous anaphylactic reaction
- suffer from allergies or asthma
- have a family history of anaphylaxis

Of course, you can become susceptible to anaphylaxis without any warning, as appears to have happened with Mr. Darker. He had been stung several times a few days earlier, which may have made him very susceptible to subsequent stings.

It is not known whether he was wearing

all the personal protective clothing and equipment that he should have been wearing. That of course, is the starting point for any wasp, hornet or bee job. All too often, however, pest controllers don't bother, especially with what they see as a quick job. Maybe it is too hot or maybe they are in a rush. What's a little sting anyway...?

## Is it really worth the risk?

Wearing a bee suit says to the customer "this may be a quick job, but it's one you couldn't do as you don't have all the necessary equipment!"

## Be Professional, Be Safe

## What are the complications of anaphylactic shock?

Anaphylactic shock is extremely serious. It can block your airways and prevent you from breathing. It can also stop your heart. This is due to the decrease in blood pressure that prevents the heart from receiving enough oxygen.

This can contribute to potential complications such as:

- brain damage
- kidney failure
- cardiogenic shock, (a condition that causes your heart to not pump enough blood to your body)
- arrhythmias, (a heartbeat that is either too fast or too slow)
- heart attacks
- death

## What to do?

Does your 'Lone Worker' company policy deal with this issue?

If not, why not? If not, make sure this is dealt with

Are all your field staff up-to-date with their first aid training?

If not, why not? Make sure they have all received suitable recent training and certification.

A magazine article is no substitute for proper training and procedures in this type of life and death situation, so we can only help to point you in the right direction.

What to do in cases of anaphylactic shock

If you're experiencing severe anaphylaxis, seek emergency care immediately. If you have an epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen), use it at the onset of your symptoms. Don't try to take any type of oral medication if you're having difficulty breathing.

Even if you seem better after you use the EpiPen, you must still get medical attention. There's a significant risk of the reaction coming back as soon as the medication wears off.

If anaphylactic shock is occurring because of a bee sting, remove the stinger if possible. Use a plastic card, such as a credit card. Press the card against the skin, slide it upward toward the stinger, and flick the card up once underneath it.

Don't squeeze the stinger, as this can release more venom.

If someone appears to be going into anaphylactic shock, call 999 and then:

- Get them into a comfortable position and elevate their legs. This keeps blood flowing to the vital organs.
- If they have an EpiPen, administer it immediately.
- If you have been suitably trained, give them CPR if they aren't breathing until the emergency medical team arrives.

## “Bees can't give you anaphylactic shock” – WE BEG TO DIFFER!

A so-called bee expert recently claimed that you could not develop anaphylactic shock from being stung by bees. He cited the fact that as a professional bee keeper he was frequently stung by his bees and hadn't suffered any bad effects.

We checked this with another bee keeper, whose comment was *“I hope he's got good Professional Indemnity Insurance if he's giving out such shocking advice!”*

A quick enquiry on the Internet produced several articles on medical websites describing this life-threatening condition which had been brought on by bee stings.

**He may have been lucky so far. You may not be.**

## To Treat Bee or Not To Treat Bee... continued

**In last month's NPPTA Newsletter, the above question was posed. It was written to get pest controllers thinking about whether treating bees was still acceptable. One honeybee specialist, Justin Peters, Nature in Balance Pest Control, felt that not enough was said about alternative, non-lethal treatments, so we asked him to respond and he kindly submitted the article below:**

For those of us sad (or not) to wave goodbye to Ficam D as an option, and no other viable product with bees on the label, some pointers below may help. There are a number of pest controllers carrying out live bee removal, so you can either hire them or try it for yourself. Using insecticides that

have the phrase 'flying insects' on the label is extremely risky in my opinion. Insecticidal destruction is dogged by problems. All that honey and comb is now contaminated, and needs to be either sealed in, or removed and properly disposed of. Sealing up a cavity is not easy in an old roof, hanging tiles or a crumbly chimney! Do not rely on the customer saying they will do the repairs. You applied the chemical, the problem is yours! Everyone around will know what you've done, so have good answers ready as (to the uninformed) any hives that die nearby will be because of your actions, regardless of the actual causes of colony death. That's bad PR.

Live removal is easier and MUCH more profitable than insecticidal destruction, and really pleases the public as well as rewarding the pest controller. The options of live removal are cut outs and trap outs. Entombing is another option. You have to know what you're doing in all scenarios, otherwise it WILL go wrong, sometimes dangerously so. An in-depth knowledge of bees is a must, especially what they are in a distressed

state. Attending a bee keeping course is a big head start, as is handling bees on the comb. This will not only equip you with the basic knowledge of bees, but also enable you to think outside the box when removing them.

With trap outs and entombing, you have to consider where the honey will go once the bees are gone. With no bees to control temperature, deter pests or carry out structural maintenance, the comb could overheat or be attacked by the various pests of honeycomb. Once this happens, gravity will do the rest and the honey WILL seep through most structures and decoration. Secondary infestation of the property by these pests (especially clothes moth) should also be considered. Live removal is PR gold! The news rattles round social media better than anything, and everyone is interested. Capitalise on this by talking to people and telling them that you carry out other pest control. Works a treat.

The other thing to consider is that honey bee removal “season” is bang smack in the wasp season. Try doing it



from about mid July onwards and there will be more robbing wasps than bees! And whilst you're digging the bees out, your competitors are mopping up your wasp clients. The actual time to be doing



removals is pretty much as the goat willow flowers in March until mid July when robbing wasps and other bees will be a problem. It's taken about 5 years to get the techniques right for most

scenarios at a cost of a lot of unpaid time, observing and experimenting, so I'm not about to go into any depth on methods in case the competition is watching..."

The editor comments, for those members who want to learn more about non-lethal honey bee removal from a couple of technicians who have also developed their skills and experience come to PestTech on November 6th. Martyn Belcher and Clive Stewart will be giving a presentation on precisely this topic. Should be well worth it.

# PEST-TECH 2019



2019 will see YOUR Association pull out all the stops to make this year's event the biggest and best Exhibition ever staged by the NPTA, making it a must for all involved in the pest control industry. Get to see the latest products and information updates while collecting those all-important CPD points.

Being held for the second year in the fabulous Marshall Arena at the MK DONS Stadium in Milton Keynes, the venue provides excellent access, free parking, free admission and fantastic facilities within a short walk including, McDonalds, KFC and many other retail outlets.

**To save you time on arrival, pre-registration will be available on the NPTA Website from October 1st.**

A full Seminar programme will run during the day with speakers giving presentations on the subjects that you, the members, have requested. CPD points will be allocated for each presentation as well as for attending the Exhibition.

Other interesting additions to this year will be an indoor rifle range, giving you the chance to try the latest BSA air weapons available. The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) will be present to answer member queries regarding sporting activities. DEFRA, the HSE, CRRU, SOFHT will be on hand to answer queries and supply information regarding native and invasive species, alongside all the usual special interest stands.

Demonstrating how to cook game and butcher a venison carcase will be Ralf Skripek the 'Wild chef' while CJS Falconry will be on hand to talk on the use of Hawks and Falcons in Pest Control situations.

All of the NPTA staff will be in attendance, so come and speak to us on the NPTA stand. Donna and Maxine, our administration staff, speak to many members every day and it's always good to put a face to that name.

Steve Hallam the Association's new Chief Operating Officer would like to meet and talk to as many members as possible to understand your needs. Please remember, the NPTA was formed by working technicians for technicians, so we have all been, or still are working technicians, **we are approachable and want to understand your requirements from your Association.**

Exhibitors already booked for 2019 include:-

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), BAYER, BELL LABORATORIES, PELSIS, CJS Birds of Prey, Rundlebeck Taxidermy, Bradshaw Bennett, Metex, Bat Conservation Trust, Lodi UK, CRRU (Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use), PMA (Pest Management Alliance), Ralf Skripek the Wild chef, Bower Products, Collin's Traps, Pest Magazine, DEFRA,

W.F.Fountain, Basis Prompt, Killgerm Group, Pelgar International, Pest West, SOFHT, Rentokil Deadline, 1ENV Solutions, PestFix, Russell IPM, Cliverton, Barrettine Environmental Health, Woodstream Europe, HSE, Hockley International, ATEO (Air Rifle Training and Education Organisation), BSA Guns,

Pest-Tech is the NPTA's own exhibition for the benefit of NPTA members and the whole pest control industry, it takes a lot of work and organisation by our staff and Directors for your benefit, so please show your support to your Association and if possible attend this important day in the pest control calendar, we can assure you it will be worth your while. November 6th at the Marshall Arena, Milton Keynes, MK1 1ST. Doors open from 10am, with the exhibition concluding at 4pm.

## UPDATE ON PERMANENT BAITING GUIDELINES

New and important guidelines have now been issued on the subject of permanent baiting. Following concerns raised by pest control professionals, CRRU have reviewed the permanent baiting guidelines to differentiate between baiting inside and outside.

The new guidelines dictate that the frequency of checks for internal baiting can now be at the technician's discretion, unlike the previous document which indicated that checks had to be

at least every 4 weeks. However, please be aware that this is not giving carte blanche to return to the old days and you will still have to risk assess every situation and it remains that it should only be carried out in buildings where there is a high possibility of re-invasion and/or where other methods (i.e. proofing) are insufficient. Please also be aware that only baits specified as being suitable for permanent baiting can be used for this practice.

CRRU have recognised the need for this for the following reasons:

- 1) few non-target animals can get direct access to the bait
- 2) only small quantities of biocidal product are used in the bait placements
- 3) non-target animals are usually virtually absent from indoor baited areas.

The visit frequency in outdoor situations remains unchanged.

A full copy of these guidelines can be downloaded at: <https://www.thinkwildlife.org/downloads/>

## FENDONA 6SC IS TO BE NO-MORE!

Following on from the reclassification of Ficam D, Fendona is the next to feel the impact of re-registration.

The evaluation of Fendona 6SC, submitted by BASF is complete. Although new authorisations have been granted. It has only been authorised for use in poultry houses and only against a limited range of pest species. Due to a procedural irregularity in Greece, the existing urban use of this product have not been approved. As a consequence, BASF have taken the decision not

to continue with this product

Existing stocks of Fendona 6SC will be phased out as follows:

**12th January 2020 – last date for sale and supply**

**16th July 2020 – last date for storage, use and disposal**

# MEMBER PROFILE

## ECO ENVIRONMENTAL NOTTINGHAM



Eco environmental are an accredited member of the NPTA and have once again passed an audit – well done Eco Environmental. The business is headed up by Colin Slaney who has been involved in the industry since 1983. Colin worked for various pest control companies, holding many roles including technical manager before deciding to set up on his own in 2007.

### Colin comments on his reasons for this

*'As a small company we try to focus on a quality service having time to do the job and using the best products'*

Eco Environmental service a wide range of businesses up to and including BRC accredited food factories. The admin function is carried out by Colin's wife, Caroline and they employ one full time member of staff. Colin also carries out consultancy work for a national leisure chain and recently won an award for outstanding service, beating 1700 other entries in the process, a well-deserved victory for an NPTA member.

Some of you may have seen a news article recently where a rat was hit by a builder with a plank of wood and then kicked unceremoniously by another. This video has been doing the rounds on social media with varying comments about the treatment it received.

This has come in for severe criticism from the animal rights group PETA, who are calling for the individuals concerned to be prosecuted under animal rights laws. Whilst many of us may struggle to understand and sympathise with many of the demands raised by PETA, it is a timely reminder that what we do is under scrutiny.

The advent of social media has brought sharply into focus many (including lawful) activities that can bring bad publicity to your business. Whilst we fully appreciate that our members would not involve themselves in such behaviour, it does highlight the need to stay within the law and that even rodents are protected by the Animal Welfare and Wild Mammals Acts.



# DAIRY DATES

## On the Road Training Days

We will be conducting an additional three 'on the road' training days' in 2019, where attendees get to hear a variety of speakers on different subject areas, including asbestos awareness, rabbit control, past present and future as well as a variety of different subject areas.

These training days are **FREE OF CHARGE** to NPTA members. Non-members are welcome to attend for a small charge to cover lunch.

## Upcoming Dates for 2019

### Tonbridge, 11th Sept.

Hadlow Manor Hotel, Maidstone Rd, Tonbridge TN11 0JH

### Farnborough, 19th Sept.

Holiday Inn, Lynchford Road, Farnborough GU14 6AZ

### Dudley, 16th October

Village Hotel, Castlegate Dr, Dudley DY1 4TB



These are FREE to NPTA Members and a hot lunch is provided. Details of the presentations to be given on our website in due course.

Martin Ball, Head of the Wildlife Incident Investigation Team (England) tells NPTA Members at our Manchester event what to expect 'When an Inspector Calls'. He is expected to speak at both the Farnborough and Dudley events.

## PestTech 2019

The event for pest control technicians, this annual gathering of more than 1,000 pest controllers will showcase the very latest information, featuring over 50 exhibitors and a full programme of presentations (Full exhibitor list below).

Following on from the amazing success of last year's event at the custom-built Marshall Arena in Milton Keynes, we have decided to hold our PestTech event there again this year.

The feedback we received for the 2018 event was overwhelmingly positive, from both exhibitors and pest controllers who attended.

A full exhibitor list can be found below. More information will also be found in the September edition of the newsletter

CPD points available for attending the exhibition as well as for every seminar and demonstration.

### BASIS PROMPT

Beegone  
WaspBane  
Cliverton  
Water For Kids  
Bower  
Metex  
ServiceTracker  
Bradshaw Bennett Ltd

Royal Society For Public Health  
International Pest Control  
Lodi Uk  
The Airgun Training and Education Organisation  
Bat Conversation Trust  
British Pest Control Association  
Animal and Plant Health Agency  
Huck Nets (UK) Ltd  
Colin's Traps  
W.F. Fountain Agent  
LANTRA  
Rat Pak Engineering  
Rentokil  
Bell Laboratories  
Syngenta  
Pest Fix  
Bayer Cropscience Ltd  
Killgerm  
Pest West  
BASF PLC  
Woodstream Europe Ltd  
Pest Trader  
1env Solutions Ltd  
National Pest Technicians Association  
CRRU & PMA  
Hockley International Ltd  
Russell IPM Ltd  
PelGar International  
Aspley Workwear  
Rundlebeck Taxidermist  
Barrettine Environmental Health  
CJ's Birds of Prey  
Butlers Pantry  
Pelsis  
BASC

## JOB VACANCIES

### PEST CONTROL TECHNICIAN



Melford Pest Control are a professional, well established family run company based near Stevenage, Herts

We currently have a vacancy for a fully trained Pest Control Technician to cover North West London, Hertfordshire and surrounding area to join our friendly hard working team. The ideal candidate should:

- Be qualified to BPCA / RSPH level 2 in pest management or equivalent.
- Have a full, clean UK drivers licence.
- Be self motivated, well organised, hardworking, reliable, flexible and trustworthy.
- Have common sense and a positive attitude.
- Have good communication skills and be confident dealing with customers at all levels.

The role will include commercial and domestic pest control, fly killer servicing and pest proofing. Company vehicle and mobile phone, clothing, PPE and equipment provided. Salary is £23,500.00 per annum plus overtime and commission

