

The O·C·E·O·A Enforcer

The Newsletter of the Ohio Code Enforcement Officials Association

Third Quarter, 2007

Emergency Vacates

We've all had to deal with them. The elderly lady with two dozen cats running throughout the house. The old man suffering from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder that saves everything he's ever bought or found, or the Slum Lord that doesn't pay the gas, electric, or water bill because the tenant hasn't paid the rent.

The problem is we have to deal with the problem and deal with it in a hurry. That's why we call it an EMERGENCY VACATE. Some safety problems can't wait to follow the normal legal process, that's why we must get involved to look out for a citizen's best interest, even when they may not want our help.

Josh Harmon will discuss this subject and tell us how he reacts when faced with the need to issue an Emergency Vacate Order.

P.O.D.S.

If you ever needed help
or information

John Jennex from the P.O.D.S. corporation is going to be on hand to answer all of our questions concerning their use and what the company can do to help us when we have someone using a P.O.D. in contradiction to our local ordinances.

John is the P.O.D.S. Territorial Manager for the Louisville, Cincinnati and Dayton market. John lives in Florence, Kentucky.

In case you need help and don't know where to turn or a resolution to your P.O.D. problem call John and he'll be glad to help, if he can. John's phone number is 270-302-9164.

GANGS

Perhaps you have noticed some odd graffiti on the buildings in certain neighborhoods and wondered just what it means. Well, actually it can have many different meaning. Some can be innocent
See GANGS page 2

Lead-Dust Tests May Be Too Costly For Many Homeowners

Lead dust poses the greatest hazard to children under six years of age and to pregnant women and their unborn children.

However, The National Association of Home Builders reports that they don't expect consumer support for any future regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency that would require owners to test for lead-paint dust after remodeling homes that were built before 1978, when lead paint was banned.

Despite the fact that most homeowners are aware of lead dust's health risks, owners of homes built before 1978 say they wouldn't pay \$200 to test for lead-paint dust after completing a remodeling project.

94 percent of home owners polled by the National Association of Home Builders said they are aware that lead dust from older homes could cause health problems. But 81 percent of those planning to hire a professional contractor within the next two years indicated they wouldn't pay the estimated \$200 per room to ensure a safe lead dust level after the project was completed. Of those undertaking "do-it-yourself" projects, 80 percent said they wouldn't pay the \$200 for the lead test.

Only 25% of households with pregnant mothers and/or children under six years of age who are planning to hire a remodeling professional said they would pay for a test. One-third of DIYers said they would pay.

A number of consumer groups are calling for mandatory testing to ensure remodeled rooms are clear of lead paint dust, says Jim Lapides, communications director for the NAHB's Remodelers Council.

Inspections would be federally mandated and administered and would apply to renovations completed by remodeling contractors in pre-1978 homes; inspections wouldn't apply to DIY home owners.

The NAHB contends the regulation would cause more home owners to go the DIY route. The home owner would have to bring

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in the tester; the contractor would be responsible for any lead dust.

"The rule likely increases — not decreases — the risk of children's exposure to lead," says Lapides. It appears that proposal, as it exists, would discourage home owners from remodeling old homes or at least discourage hiring professionals to perform the work for them.

An NAHB study conducted in 2006 on lead-safe work practices revealed that a home is better off after a remodel than before in terms of lead dust, according to Lapides who adds that "as long as the removal is conducted by trained remodelers who clean the work area with HEPA equipped vacuums, wet washing, and disposable drop cloths, when the done.

Even a minimal job on just a facet of a room, such as replacing a single window, would require an inspection, says Lapides. And he says the contractor would be liable for any lead dust found in the room whether or not it came from the specific remodeling project.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work. *Thomas Edison*

2007 OCEOA Meeting Dates

•August 16, 2007 •
•November 15, 2007 •

All meetings will be held at the
Midwest Hotel & Conference Center
on Sinclair Road in Columbus,
Toll Free Phone No. 1-877-609-6086

COMMON EVASIVE PESTS AND THEIR CONTROL

Gerry Wegner, Ph.D., BCE

Gerry Wegner will be with us for our 1:00 pm session to educate us on the various pests we are likely to experience while performing our inspection activities. Gerry will also explain to us a condition known as Delusory Parasitosis.

Delusory parasitosis (a.k.a. illusory parasitosis or Ekbom's Syndrome) is a medical condition whereby the afflicted person experiences a sensation of things biting, crawling or burrowing in the skin and is absolutely convinced that he or she is infested with minute insects, mites or worms when in fact, no such organisms are present.

Persons suffering from this condition may or may not claim to see the causal organisms of their discomfort. When asked to try to capture and save specimens of the things that are infesting them, the affected persons often collect and submit such items as:

skin flakes (dander), scabs, lint, extracted follicles, mucous crust, and sometimes small, dead insects that were found on the window sills but could not have caused the symptoms described, even when alive (e.g., fungus gnats).

Sufferers' descriptions of the offending creatures vary but often conjure images of miniature parasites from science fiction thrillers like the *X-Files*: They may be any combination of colors or mutate. They may be wormlike or insect-like in form. They may jump, crawl, fly, burrow or disappear.

Sufferers of delusory parasitosis usually are middle-aged to elderly in profile; however, younger people report similar symptoms to a lesser extent. Those who study this condition and have researched the people involved have discovered some interesting causes and explanations for delusory parasitosis: Medical conditions & toxic reactions, including: Reduced levels of hormones which keep the skin healthy and moist (i.e., post-menopause), Psychosomatic expressions of recent traumatic experiences



(e.g., death of a spouse), or Lack of sleep, AIDS, Anemia, Carbon monoxide, Hypoglycemia, Carcinoma, Cirrhosis, Depression, Stress, Diabetes mellitus, Niacin overdose, Lupus, Rheumatoid arthritis, Cholestasis, Hyperthyroidism

The condition can be the result of side effects of certain prescription and recreational drugs or combinations of drugs like: Prozac, Prilosec, Vasotec, Zolof, Claritin, Praxil, Prinivil, Cipro, Pravacol, Motrin, or Cocaine.

The condition is aggravated by the victim's tendency to scratch, pick and probe at sites on their skin where the sensations occur, resulting in a variety of unsightly skin conditions.

Sufferers have been reported to apply concentrated pesticides and other irritating chemicals to "infested" areas of their body, thereby creating a serious health risk to themselves.

They call and visit doctor after doctor (who often refer them to pest control applicators or university extension entomologists).

They request service from one pest control company after another, usually without satisfactory results or resolution.

They may convince family members that they too are being affected, resulting in shared symptoms by power of suggestion.

In most instances, the delusory sensations will not subside unless the sufferer is treated with certain anti-psychotic drugs, which must be prescribed by an attending psychiatrist. The difficulty in helping victims of delusory parasitosis towards a lasting solution to their problem lies in the legal risks associated with suggesting an appointment with a qualified (DP-experienced) psychiatrist. A family

physician is best-qualified to recommend this course of action to victims or involved family members.

Unfortunately, most physicians who become involved in such cases lend credibility to their delusory patient's reports of bites and burrowing sensations and mistakenly recommend pest management as the answer.

Gerry Wegner received his bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from Loyola University of Chicago (1973, 1975) and his doctorate in entomology from the Ohio State University in 1980.

Gerry has been active in the structural pest management industry since 1981. He started with Varment Guard Environmental Services, Inc., Columbus, OH, in 1985 as staff entomologist and pest management sales and service associate.

He became a co-owner and vice president of Varment Guard in 1987 while assuming his current role as technical director and IPM consultant.

His special interests include structure-infesting ants, bees, wasps, termites, spiders, nuisance wildlife, delusory parasitosis, and field-testing new pest management products.

Gerry is active with the Entomological Society of America (ESA), Certification Board of Entomologists (B.C.E.), Pi Chi Omega, and the National Pest Management Association (NPMA).

He revised the chapters on Bees & Wasps (8th edition) and Vertebrate Pests (9th edition) in the *Mallis Handbook of Pest Control*, authored the Taxonomy Tales column in *Pest Control* magazine and currently writes the Pest Spotlight column in *Pest Control*.



YOUNGSTOWN MORE PROGRESSIVE THAN YOU MAY THINK

Youngstown, one of Ohio's most prominent cities, has seen its population decline from about 168,000 in 1950 to about 80,000 today. Unlike many other cities in Ohio experiencing similar declines in population, Youngstown has given up on the notion promoting growth. Instead, Youngstown is embracing its smaller size with plans to get rid of abandoned properties and create green space.

According to their plan, neighborhoods with an overabundance of empty homes and businesses will be demolished and turned into green space and public parks so the shrinking city doesn't have to maintain an infrastructure no one uses.

There are mixed feelings from citizens. Some are unhappy with the process, but others think it as an opportunity to experience a less dense lifestyle while still

enjoying the basic conveniences of city living.

Youngstown is one of the first city to realize there are other ways to deal with a declining population than to just keep spinning your wheels trying to attract businesses and regain their glory days. If cities follow the same life cycle as neighborhoods: Growth, Stability, Decline and Rejuvenation. Then it should be no big surprise that whole cities may follow the same cycle.

Everyone will be watching Youngstown and other cities that adopt the same philosophy when dealing with a shrinking population. I wouldn't be surprised, off in the future, if some of the same attributes that made Youngstown so successful in the past play a key role in a much brighter future.

What do you think about their game plan?

You can now download the meeting registration form and copies of the Enforcer by typing **meetings.oceoa.org** where you would normally enter a URL address. Notice you do **not** need to include a www, doing so will prevent you from reaching the files. Need help? Call 937-333-3916.

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graphics practiced by local kids with nothing better to do than deface some poor citizen's garage, house or business establishment. On the other hand, it can be a very serious message that you should stay away, or even a warning, that you may be in danger by even being at that particular location.

The Columbus Police Department has a group of members that are well versed in Gang activity and what their graffiti can mean to convey to other people.

They will clue us in to some of the more important issues we need to know to keep ourselves from inadvertently stumbling into a bad or even dangerous situation.

Please keep our troops in your prayers and thoughts!

The Enforcer is published by the Ohio Code Enforcement Officials Association. Submissions to this publication are welcome and may be made to Denver Williams, City of Dayton, 371 W. Second Street, Room 324, Dayton, Ohio 45402 or faxed to 937-333-4294 or via e-mail at Denver.Williams@ci.dayton.oh.us

Visit our website at www.oceoa.org

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We are considering publishing a Membership and Associates Contact Book, much like what we issued a few years ago.

If you are interested being included in the book please complete the form below and return it to Denver Williams by any of the following methods: by e-mail at denver.williams@ci.dayton.oh.us , by fax to 937-333-4294 , by US Mail at 371 W. Second Street, Rm. 324, Dayton, OH 45402, or just call Denver at 937-333-3916.

Only include information you don't mind sharing. It doesn't matter if you want to use a home address, phone or e-mail address.

ICC would also like to know how many OCEOA Members are also ICC Members. Even if you are not interested in being included in the membership book please print your name and

Include me in the Membership Book: Yes _____ No _____

I.C.C. Member: Yes _____ No _____

Name: _____

Department: _____

Title: _____

Jurisdiction: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____