

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# Summit Background – Recap of 2009 Summit

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# Goals of 1<sup>st</sup> Bed Bug Summit – April 2009

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- 1<sup>st</sup> Bed Bug summit was sponsored by the U.S. EPA
- Encourage communication among diverse stakeholders
- Develop recommendations on how to address the many problems posed by the bed bug resurgence



# 1<sup>st</sup> Bed Bug Summit

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- Combination of plenary and workgroup sessions; workgroups assigned to assure a diverse representation in each group.
- All workgroups given the same assignment: to consider five topics
  - Research
  - Role of Government (all levels)
  - Consumer Education and Communications
  - Pest Control Operator Education and Training
  - Role of Property Owners and Property Managers



# 1<sup>st</sup> Bed Bug Summit

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- For each of the 5 topics, the workgroups were asked to:
  - Identify the most significant factors contributing to the problem
  - Identify and discuss options and solutions
  - **Identify their workgroup's** recommendations
- Recommendations were compiled and discussed in a plenary session
- Not all recommendations for EPA

# Recommendations: Research

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- Fund research:
  - ***Grant programs funded various public outreach, workshops and technical guides including:***
    - ***Publication of "What's Working for Bed Bug Control in Multi-Family Housing?"***
    - ***Over \$225K to Virginia, Baltimore and Indiana for workshops, brochures, and research into control methods.***
    - ***In addition, have allocated \$550K for bed bug education and outreach in environmental justice communities.***
- New and emerging technologies and techniques
  - ***Some new products registered***
  - ***Research continuing to identify current registered products that may work on bed bugs***



# Recommendations: Research

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- Demonstrate bed bugs are a public health problem
  - ***Joint statement by EPA and CDC confirms recognition of public health impacts***
- Review pest control strategies
  - ***National Center for Healthy Housing's Publication.***
- Create a tracking system/clearinghouse for data
  - ***Inventory of research compiled and posted on Armed Forces Pest Management board website***



# Recommendations: Role of Government

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- Form interagency federal task force
  - ***Federal Bed Bug Workgroup organized and has met at least monthly since 8/09.***
- Develop an EPA bed bug specific website
  - ***Web page released May 2010, updated June ,October 2010.***
- Legislation: bed bug certification for pest control operators
  - ***Update on the legislative efforts***



# Recommendations: Role of Government

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- Provide funding: research, education, training
  - **Grant money made available**
- Regulatory changes to streamline registration process; incentives for new products
  - **Commitment to expedite registration process**
- Recognize bed bugs as a public health pest
  - **Release of joint statement from EPA and CDC reiterates position that bed bugs are a public health pest.**
- Support IPM approach
  - **Website information focused and supportive of IPM**
- Update efficacy testing
  - **Review of efficacy protocols to address control claims of resistant strains**



# Recommendations: Consumer Education and Communication

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- EPA has developed a number of communication materials and has provided funding and other types of support.
  - ***EPA website***
  - ***Videos***
  - ***Fact Sheets***



# Recommendations: PCO Education and Training

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- A number of recommendations dealt with bed bug training for pest control operators.
- EPA has the authority to require training for restricted use pesticides.
- Have participated in efforts lead by sectors which will be discussed further today.



# Recommendations: Role of Property Owners and Managers

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- Many recommendations directed to property managers and owners including:
  - Awareness of IPM Practices; Training of owners, staff, managers;
  - Outreach and notification to tenants;
  - Education (fact sheet), communication, training for tenants;
  - Hold property owners responsible for treatment and/or for known infestations (legal responsibility);
  - Help with legislation: funding, disposal of infested items;
  - Require licensed PCO application including owners;
  - Certification for property owners;
  - Educate property managers about how to hire quality pest control operators
- States and localities have been working on legislation and programs to address some of these needs; Clearinghouse will allow communities to share materials.



# Summary

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- Presentations in plenary session of 2nd Bed Bug Summit will address progress made by many sectors
- Focus of break-out groups tomorrow is to identify next steps in addressing knowledge gaps and developing a framework for addressing the highest priority needs.