

Toolbox Talk - Environment

Ecology – Oak Processionary Moth

What?

- Caterpillars of the Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) are a pest which can be a hazard to the health of people.
- The greatest risk period is May to July, but nests should always be avoided.
- They have been recorded in the following IMDM areas, but may be elsewhere:
 - ◆ Clapham
 - ◆ Croydon
 - ◆ Euston
 - ◆ London Bridge
 - ◆ Orpington
 - ◆ Reading
 - ◆ Saltley
 - ◆ Tottenham
 - ◆ Wessex Inner
 - ◆ Bedford

Why?

- Their tiny hairs can be blown about by the wind and cause itchy skin rashes, eye and throat irritations and, occasionally, breathing difficulties.



DO

- ✓ Keep away from caterpillars
- ✓ Report any suspected sightings immediately and stop work when safe to do so
- ✓ Use EcoReporter app and send to opm@forestrycommission.gov.uk
- ✓ Call NHS111 or seek medical advice for serious allergic reactions

DON'T

- ✗ Start work on a suspected tree until all OPM eggs, nests and caterpillars have been removed and destroyed.
- ✗ Process or remove arisings from site without written authorisation from the Forestry Commission opm@forestrycommission.gov.uk

V3 2020

