ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

CARL R. DARNALL ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

FORT CAVAZOS, TEXAS 76544

MCXI-HPM-EH Revised 9 March 2018

File Name: Bed Bug SOP

STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURES

Bed Bug Management

1. **PURPOSE.** To establish procedures for the treatment and prevention of bed bug infestations
2. **REFERENCES.**

a. AR 40-5, Preventive Medicine, 22 July 2005.

b. TB MED 561, Occupational and Environmental Health Pest Surveillance, Jun 92.

c. TG 44 - Bed Bugs - Importance, Biology, and Control Strategies

**3. SCOPE.** This SOP applies to the Environmental Health Section of the Department of Preventive Medicine, Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center (CRDAMC).

**4. OBJECTIVES.** To provide general guidelines and information regarding managing bed bug infestations in barracks and other housing areas on Fort Hood

**5. RESPONSIBILITIES**

a. CRDAMC Environmental Health Section

1. Provide technical expertise to installation assets.
2. Consult on bed bugs issues at the request of the installation pest management coordinator.

b. Installation pest management coordinator

1. Determine if a bed bug infestations exist prior to creating a work order for treatment.
2. Utilize CRDAMC environmental health for consultation as necessary.

c. Barracks and housing management

(1) Ensure room occupants follow the procedures outlined in this SOP.

**6. NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES**

a. Tenants or facility management with notify the DPW work order phone line when a case of bed bugs is suspected

b. The IPMC will then survey the area and interview the occupant(s) to determine if bed bugs are present and if treatment is warranted. The IPMC may consult with CRDAMC Environmental Health as needed for assistance.

c. If the IPMC determines treatment is necessary, a work order will be placed to the pest management contractor.

**7. DETECTION**

a. A bed bug infestation is usually revealed through finding live bugs, or signs (e.g., dark fecal deposits or lighter rusty spots) on bed linens or in harborages, or eggs or cast skins in harborages or near feeding sites, recording where and when alleged victims have been bitten, or smelling the bug’s characteristic odor

b. Any combination of two or more of these signs can help verify an infestation and help determine distribution and prevalence.

**8. RELOCATION PROTOCOL**

a. Whenever possible, tenants of bed bug infested units should be relocated to a vacant unit. On the day the PMP arrives to treat infested units, tenants should seal clothing and/or linens to be taken to the relocation unit in plastic bags and launder them as directed below.

b. Using a vacuum cleaner (preferably HEPA-filtered), remove the bugs and their cast skins from all observed and suspected harborage sites during the initial inspection, and periodically afterward (e.g., once weekly as a self-help action). The vacuum bag should be removed immediately afterward, sealed tightly inside a larger plastic bag, and that bag incinerated or placed in the next normal trash collection.

c. On the day the pest management contractor arrives to treat infested units, tenants should remove all bed linens and place them along with soiled clothing in plastic bags and launder them as directed below.

d. Remove linens and soiled clothing from bags only prior to placing in washing machine. Reseal and properly dispose of used bags to prevent exit of any bed bugs that may remain inside bags. Wash all articles in HOT water with the appropriate amount of detergent, and dry on the HOTTEST setting. Place in new plastic bags immediately upon removal from the dryer and seal with a tie. Bags should only be opened to retrieve fresh articles, and immediately resealed.

e. Personal items that cannot be laundered (personal hygiene items, etc.) or clean clothing in drawers should be thoroughly checked for bed bugs and stored in sealed plastic bags. Do not replace bagged items in drawers as the furniture will be treated.

f. All clutter, debris, and garbage in the infested room should be placed into plastic bags and sealed. The bags should be labeled as “trash” and remain in the infested room for treatment by a PCO prior to disposal. Following the treatment, all bags containing trash must be sealed and placed in the appropriate trash receptacle.

g. Tenants should not be placed in infested units until after the room treatment is completed and no additional evidence of bed bugs is observed. The IPMC should give notice to facility management when treatment is complete and tenants can be moved into the area again.

h. If it is not possible to relocate tenants, all clothing and linens must be secured in plastic bags for laundering and placed into new plastic bags immediately after laundering. Bags should only be opened to retrieve fresh articles, and immediately resealed.

i. To the best of their ability, tenants shall cooperate with Management if temporary relocation is required (to a bed bug free room) while the infested room is being treated and until no additional evidence of bed bugs is observed.

j. Tenants should not remove any furniture from an infested unit until after the unit is treated. If it is necessary to remove clutter and other unwanted items following a treatment, those items should be bagged and sealed and placed in the appropriate trash receptacle.

k. Tenants should be mindful of the difficulty involved in treating occupied units and do their best to reduce clutter and other unnecessary items after treatment, and maintain their units in as clutter free condition as possible.

**9. CONTROL MEASURES**

a. Seal shut all cracks, crevices, and entry points to wall voids, using a high-quality silicone-based sealant, especially within a 20-ft. radius of any spot where bed bug bites have occurred.

b. A residual insecticide should be applied (by a properly qualified and certified, when called for on any given product’s label), according to label directions, to each infested site and preferably to a small area around each site. This will often involve treating cracks and crevices. When planning and conducting any such treatments, consider examining, if not treating, the opposite side of any involved wall, floor, or ceiling.

c. Electrical outlet boxes, and similar voids that cannot be readily and effectively sealed, should be treated with an appropriate insecticide dust.

d. Follow-up. Re-inspection of infested structures and sites should be done about 10-21 days after any initial treatment, and (if needed) again about 10-21 days later, to detect, and to precisely target any subsequent re-treatment of, any continued infestation site(s).

**10. REOCCUPATION STRATEGY**

a. After the pest management contractor closes the work order, the IPMC will conduct a final inspection before the room is reoccupied

b. Rooms should be thoroughly cleaned before reoccupation.

c. Reoccupation should only occur after treatment, re-inspection, clearing by the IPMC, and final cleaning.

**11. POST DEPLOYMENT**

a. Any personnel returning from a deployment should follow the procedures in 8d and e to prevent the spread of bed bugs.

**12. SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

a. Proper PPE will be used during all entomology surveys and treatments.

b. All surveys in occupied rooms will be conducted with a minimum of two personnel.

c. SDS information and product labels will be kept on hand and reviewed before utilizing chemicals.

JOSEPH W MARGOTTA

CPT, MS

Entomology