

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2007-38  
September 14, 2007

SUBJECT: *Sirex noctilio* Fabricius (Sirex woodwasp) in Elk County, Pennsylvania

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On September 11, 2007, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the detection of one female *Sirex noctilio* woodwasp in Elk County, Pennsylvania. This woodwasp was collected from a trap placed on a girdled pine trap tree on private property. The U.S. Forest Service is cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) to conduct *S. noctilio* surveys in seven northwestern Pennsylvania Counties. Within these counties, *S. noctilio* trap trees and traps are deployed at 14 sites. An additional 600 traps are placed throughout central Pennsylvania as part of a cooperative survey effort involving APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and PA DCNR. The survey area in Pennsylvania is part of a multi-state detection and delimiting survey that is ongoing in high- risk areas throughout the United States.

*Sirex noctilio* is present in some parts of the United States. To date, cooperative State and Federal survey efforts have detected *S. noctilio* in 5 Pennsylvania Counties, 1 Michigan county, 28 New York counties, and 1 Vermont County. *Sirex noctilio* is also known to be present in Ontario Province, Canada.

*S. noctilio* is an exotic species of wood-boring wasp capable of causing significant mortality in healthy species of pine trees. In other countries affected by *S. noctilio*, biological and cultural control programs have been developed to mitigate the impact of this forest pest. PPQ's Center for Plant Health, Science, and Technology is presently assessing the feasibility of implementing a biological control program for *S. noctilio* in the United States. APHIS is currently considering its regulatory options to address *S. noctilio*.

For more information about *Sirex noctilio*, please contact Lynn Evans-Goldner, PPQ's *Sirex noctilio* National Program Coordinator at (301) 734-7228.

/s/ **Paul R. Eggert** for

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