

## Toolbox Talk - Environment

### Ecology – Oak Processionary Moth

#### What?

- Caterpillars of the Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) are a pest which can be damaging to the health of people and oak trees.
- The greatest risk period is May to July, but nests should always be avoided.
- They have been recorded in the following IMDM areas;
 

◆ Clapham	◆ Reading
◆ Croydon	◆ Saltley
◆ Euston	◆ Tottenham
◆ London Bridge	◆ Wessex Inner
◆ Orpington	◆ 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
- ✓ Use EcoReporter app (NR) and/or send to [opm@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:opm@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)
- ✓ Call NHS111 or seek medical advice for serious allergic reactions
- ✓ Record on Hazard Directory
- ✓ Report findings at <https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/>

#### DON'T

- ✗ Start work on a suspected tree until you have written authorisation from the Forestry Commission
- ✗ Process or remove arisings from site without written authorisation from the Forestry Commission

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