

BEE AWARE

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News and Notes from The Texas Apiary Inspection Service



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During the swarming season, generally March thru May, this agency has received many phone calls from the public regarding bees nesting in or around their home, apartment building, or other types of structural buildings. Removal of bees in this area is the job for the commercial applicator, who are regulated by the Structural Pest Control Board in Austin. Many beekeepers have been removing honey bees from homes and are getting in trouble with the Pest Control Board. Beekeepers have a narrow window regarding collections of swarms in a residential area. Also, the beekeeper must be collecting a swarm of honey bees, not taking out an established nest. The beekeeper must follow additional guidelines for bee removal: 1) Registered with "The Structural Pest Control Board" and with the Chief Apiary Inspector; 2) Does not use pesticides or electrical devices other than conventional bee smokers or equipment as defined by Section 131.001, Agricultural Code; and 3) Collects, removes, or destroy honey bees not attached to a dwelling or structure occupied by the public. Also, the beekeeper is not considered to be engaged in the business of structural pest control, or extermination of pests.

The bottom line on bee removal is that this must be done free of charge, bees must be alive, and no wax or brood present, and the bees must not be attached to a building or any other man-made structure. The majority of beekeepers that removed bees have been killing the nest and charging for their service which is in violation of the Structural Pest Control Laws.



A Feral Nest, Not A Swarm