

A Brief Guide to Leading a Beetle Inspection

1. Pick one or more of the properties needing inspection listed in the most recent email from Peter King-Smith entitled "Status and Open Inspection Requests".
2. Reply to everyone (Reply All) on Peter's email to inform others of the properties you have selected.
3. Go to the Boulder County website: <<http://maps.bouldercounty.org/boco/emapping>> and print out several maps of the property. If you are unable to access this website, contact a member of the Beetle Advisory Team (see below) to get maps.
4. For small or medium-sized lots, it usually is easy to identify the approximate property boundaries using physical landmarks such as the pattern of trees, location of the house, etc. Sometimes, the property owner will know the boundaries. Jim Adams may have marked them with red tape in a previous inspection. You may want to drive by the property to get a "lay of the land." Peter's email attachment will give an indication of the size, steepness, and tree density of the lot.
5. Decide how many other team members will be needed for the inspection. For most lots in PBH, one person for every acre of heavily forested land should be sufficient. If the tree density is not high, or the trees are in scattered groups, one person for every 1-1/2 or even two acres should be sufficient. If the lot is very steep, adding one additional person may be a good idea.
6. Contact the HO to set up the date and time for the inspection. Try to do this at a time when the HO will be home. Encourage the HO to go on the inspection (often they choose not to do so).
7. Contact the other team members. A list of available team members is available on the BB website.
8. Backpacks, tape, etc. are at the fire station (remember to sign out!). GPS receivers are available from Jim Adams or Russ Endo.
9. At the start of the inspection, give the HO a summary of and a copy of the beetle flip chart.
10. Follow sensible safety guidelines during the inspection. Mark the trunk of infested trees near eye level with a band of tape inscribed with the date. Use green tape for infested trees that should be removed or red/white polka dot tape for trees that are to be monitored by the owner. Mark the location of these trees on a property map and, if using a GPS, write down the tree coordinates.
11. If an infested tree is near a property boundary and you are uncertain on whose property this tree is located, contact Jim Adams for assistance. If you run into any other problems, such as indentifying what is happening with certain trees, contact a member of the Beetle Advisory Team.
12. Immediately after the inspection, give a verbal report to the HO with location of problem trees marked on a map (keep a copy for yourself) and an explanation of green vs polka-dot tape. If tree removal is recommended, give the HO a card that lists contractors who can do the work and a card that summarizes treatment options for infested trees.
13. Return backpack and sign it in. If backpack is missing something let Jim Adams know via email.
14. Submit an Inspection Report using the link to the form on the BB website<www.beetlebusters.net>. If the inspection turned up problem trees, use the comments section to give details that will explain the situation, for instance the approximate location and condition of these trees (green or faded) and the status of the beetle attacks (e.g., the presence soft pitch tubes, blue stain, egg galleries, etc.).
15. This step is optional but helpful for BB recordkeeping. If there are problem trees, send a copy of the property map with the location of these trees to beetlebusters@gmail.com; the subject line of the email should be the property address. Or send a paper copy of this property map to Jo Davies at 151 Boulder View Lane or by using the HOA mailbox in front of the fire station.
16. If the inspection turned up problem trees, make a follow-up call or email to the homeowner a few weeks after the inspection to see if they have dealt with the problem (hired a contractor; cut trees; removed or chipped wood and slash) or offer help if they haven't done anything. Call again after another few weeks, and if they still haven't done anything, contact Jo Davies.

Beetle Advisory Team: Jim Adams (jptadams@comcast.net) Jo Davies (jodavies.sbr@gmail.com) Russ Endo (russell.endo@ucdenver.edu) Peter King-Smith (pkingsmith@comcast.net) Brian Ridley (ridley@ucar.edu)