PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST BROWNTAIL MOTH

CAUTION: HAIRS STAY TOXIC FOR UP TO 3 YEARS
EVEN AFTER CATERPILLARS ARE GONE

AUTUMN-WINTER

How to control Browntail Moth:

- This year's nests become visible after leaf drop.
- Clip as many nests as possible.
- Drop in soapy water, double bag and dispose in trash.
- Winter is the best time to control the moth.
- Call an arborist for control of nests above your reach.

How to protect yourself from caterpillar hairs:

- Problem is worse from May thru July, but hairs in debris may still cause a reaction at other times of the year.
- Autumn winds or activities such as mowing or leaf-blowing can stir up hairs.
- Wear protective clothing and work in damp, windless weather if possible.
- See below on how to control a rash.

SPRING-EARLY SUMMER

Note: The chances of getting Browntail Moth rash increase during dry, windy conditions.

How to control Browntail Moth:

- Hose down caterpillars from eaves, walls and decks
- Vacuum using HEPA filter
- Double bag and dispose in trash
- After moths appear, snip leaves where moths are laying eggs, drop in soapy water. *Make sure to wear protective gloves since egg masses are covered toxic hairs.*

How to protect yourself from caterpillar hairs:

- Try to complete yard work on damp days or wet down material with hose to keep hairs from becoming airborne.
- Before going outside, cover any exposed skin and use goggles when mowing, raking, weed-whacking or removing webs.
- If you have history of respiratory problems, consider wearing a respirator.

- Avoid places heavily infested with caterpillars.
- Keep your car and house windows closed in high-risk areas.
- Don't air-dry laundry or rugs outside.
- *Always use caution when doing yard work in infested areas!*

What to do if exposed to caterpillar hairs

- Before going indoors, use duct tape to remove any hairs that may have embedded on your skin while outside.
- Take a cool 10-15 minute shower while scrubbing exposed skin.
- Immediately wash exposed clothing alone and in hot water; and dry in dryer.

What to do if you have Browntail Moth Rash

- Don't panic, while there is nothing that will make the rash go away, there are treatments which focus on relieving symptoms and eliminating exposure.
- *If you have trouble breathing or rash is severe, contact your physician immediately!*
- Over the counter (OTC) medications such as calamine lotion, Benadryl, and hydrocortisone cream may relieve itching. If OTC medications do not work, contact your doctor to prescribe a prescription compounded for browntail moth. Many people have found it to be quite helpful.