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# HAZARD NOTICE

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## ARIZONA DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

DATE: October 10, 2000

RE: Potential exposure to hantavirus and other rodent-borne diseases when removing rodent infestations from vehicles.

The Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH) is issuing this Hazard Notice to warn employers and employees who service motor vehicles of the potential exposure to rodent-borne diseases when their nests are encountered. In certain parts of the country, it is not uncommon to encounter a rodent nest underneath vehicles that have been idle or infrequently used for long periods of time.

Idle vehicles provide opportunities for rodents to build their nests. When the vehicles are returned to service, they are often taken to service centers for inspections and/or repairs. It is during this servicing that technicians can be exposed to potential viruses, such as hantavirus, if contact is made with the nest or associated debris. If it is necessary to remove or otherwise contact these nests, ADOSH recommends that employees be furnished and required to wear the following personal protective equipment (PPE):

- A NIOSH approved, N100 negative pressure respirator with HEPA filters;
- Safety glasses
- Gloves (latex or similarly protective)
- Tyvek© full-body suit

All waste material should be carefully placed into a plastic bag and then sealed prior to placement in a dumpster.

Hantavirus and other rodent-borne diseases can be serious. Possible symptoms of exposure include fatigue, fever and muscle aches. There may also be accompanying symptoms such as headaches, dizziness and abdominal problems. Late symptoms include coughing and shortness of breath. Severe cases may result in death.

The ADOSH consultation section is available to assist employers and employees with occupational safety and health issues, including those mentioned in this Hazard Notice. For additional information, contact the consultation section listed below or visit the Center for Disease Control's web site at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

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### Tucson

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