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A Pest Alert: Stop the Spread of the Brown Tree Snake

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PEST ALERT

STOP THE SPREAD OF THE BROWN TREE SNAKE

Description

Origin: Indonesia, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Australia
Color: Olive brown to yellow brown; may have faint banding
Length: Typically 2 to 3 ft but can reach more than 10 ft
Habits: Lives in trees and shrubs
Nocturnal: Seldom seen during the day. Moves out of the trees while foraging for food. Has grooved, venom-conducting teeth at the rear of the mouth

The brown tree snake *(Boiga irregularis)* is a species alien to Guam. An aggressive predator, it has caused the extinction of nearly all of Guam's native bird species. The brown tree snake eats poultry, eggs, and pets. It has extraordinary climbing abilities and causes costly electrical power outages by climbing on power lines. The brown tree snake is mildly venomous: its bite can injure or even kill infants and young children.

Seven brown tree snakes have been found at port facilities on Oahu, Hawaii. If this species becomes established in Hawaii or other Pacific islands, it will cause ecological and economic disaster.

Beware of snakes stowed away in vehicles, shipping containers and boxes, cargo, building supplies, military supplies, and equipment.

What To Do

In Hawaii
Immobilize the snake; then contact the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Plant Quarantine Branch: (808) 586-PEST

On Guam
Immobilize the snake; then contact one of the Animal Damage Control offices below:

Andersen Air Force Base	(671) 366-3261
Barrigada Heights	(671) 635-4400
Naval Station Guam	(671) 564-3900

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