



AFB-infected hive **best practice**

How to destroy an infected hive

- ◊ The identified hive should be blocked when the most bees are inside. It is best to wait for evening or early morning.
- ◊ Pour 500mls of petrol into the top of the hive (250ml for single brood boxes). Hives with vented bases and multiple supers may require more.
- ◊ Wrap the hive securely together if transporting. You can only move the hive if your DECA allows it or with written permission from an AP1.
- ◊ Dig a hole a minimum of 300mm deep and large enough to hold an entire hive. 1 hive = 1mX1m. The hole should have near-vertical sides to stop honey or non-flammable parts from moving away.
- ◊ Start a fire in the hole.
- ◊ First, add a few frames with no honey into the fire, being careful as petrol fumes may still be present.
- ◊ Once all frames from one box are burned, add the box to the fire and start burning the frames from the next box.
- ◊ While adding more hive ware, keep the remaining boxes covered with the hive lid.
- ◊ Once all burnable hive parts are in the hole and on fire, place non-burnable parts (lids, queen excluders) on top of the flames for sterilization.
- ◊ Once the flames have died down and only embers remain, remove sterilised non-burnable parts from the hole. These can be reused or placed in a bin once cool.
- ◊ Ensure all parts have been burnt.
- ◊ Fill the hole with soil, enough to cover ash, debris and any honey that may be left at the bottom of the hole.
- ◊ Sterilise equipment used to break down or move the hive and sterilise the truck deck by washing with soapy water if hives were transported and had vented bases.