Cargo pest awareness video

# Transcript

G’day. If you’re like me you’ve worked around imported cargo a long time.

We do good work in transporting goods all over the country, helping Australia to develop and grow.

But what you may not know is that we’re also on the frontline against pests and diseases.

I’m talking about bugs and other pests that like to hitch a ride to Australia with shipping containers and break bulk cargo like cars and machinery.

These are perfect hiding places for exotic animals, and other things like dirt and plant matter which can all pose a huge threat to our biosecurity.

And because we work around cargo everyday, we’re likely to spot these nasties first.

While the Australian Government works hard to screen imported cargo for pests, they can’t look at everything. That’s why it’s up to us to stay alert and report anything unusual.

Now a bug or a bit of mud and grass may not seem like much, but the reality is, one small pest can become one big problem.

Pests and diseases can wipe out entire food crops, affect our health, our pets and damage our beautiful environment. And foreign seeds can become weeds if they’re knocked loose and become established.

You’ve got to remember that a lot of this cargo also makes its way out to our rural and farming areas.

These overseas pests aren’t ones you can just hit with a bit of spray. Take for example the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, if these guys invade Australia they could severely damage our fruit and veg. Large numbers would invade our houses, our sheds, our cars and become a huge pain. And you guessed it. Phuooww! They stink like a pair of sweaty old socks!

Another is the Red Imported Fire Ant. These buggers have been found in Queensland but haven’t spread too far. And as their name suggests, a bite from one of these guys would leave your skin feeling like it’s on fire! Which means no backyard barbies for you and the kids. And the pets will have to stay inside.

That’s why we all need to be on the lookout to report insects, animals, soil and plant matter on imported cargo and containers. You don’t have to be an expert, you just have call the See Secure Report hotline on 1800 798 636, if you spot anything unusual.

Biosecurity is everyone’s business. If we can spot pests before they leave the port, we’ll be doing Australia and all its inhabitants a big favour.

Text on screen: Thanks to Biosecurity Queensland, Patrick, Chalmers, and StopBMSB.org. This video is brought to you by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

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