

Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association
POLICY ON SWARM/EXTRACTION
Updated April 2020

It is the policy of the Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association (SOBA) that any swarm sent out to the swarm call list becomes affiliated with the SOBA group and therefore members who respond to the swarm call are representing SOBA. This means the beekeeper should represent SOBA in a professional manner and with the highest ethical standards. Remember that collecting swarms is a service to our community; priority is placed on getting to the swarm as fast as possible, not on ensuring that all swarm list members get bees.

- The safety of the caller and any bystander(s) is the first and most important consideration, followed by the safety of the beekeeper and finally the bees themselves. The beekeeper will always treat the bees in a humane manner.
- When catching swarms, the beekeeper is a representative and steward of the beekeeping community. Throughout the encounter, the beekeeper should be professional, courteous, and an informative advocate for bees and all pollinators.
- It is the beekeeper's responsibility to carry insurance that will cover any injuries or property damage not covered by the homeowner's insurance policy. SOBA does not carry insurance that would apply and is not responsible for the actions of the beekeeper.
- Inclusion on the swarm call list is limited to SOBA members in good standing. Members receiving notification of swarms should not forward the information to any other person.
- The beekeeper should make every effort to bring all the necessary equipment to the site and not rely on or ask the caller to provide equipment and materials.
- The beekeeper must have the permission of the property owner, apartment manager, store manager, or other person with the authority to give permission for the removal. If the bees are in a utility box or cable TV box, the beekeeper must contact the company for permission before proceeding.
- If it is necessary to modify a structure to gain access to the swarm or extraction, the homeowner needs to be advised that they are responsible for any repairs or re-construction after the hive is removed.
- Extractions: If the beekeeper charges money for an extraction, he or she must have workman's compensation or be self-insured. The property owner will not be liable in case of injury.

Swarm Collection Steps;

1. Have everything ready to go.
2. REPLY ALL to the email notification to claim the swarm.
3. Call the person reporting the swarm; give your name, identify yourself as a SOBA member, and notify of the time of arrival.
4. Go, collect, smile.
5. Make every reasonable effort to retrieve the entire colony. This means leaving the swarm retrieval box until sundown and returning to collect it once the foragers and scouts have an opportunity to return to their colony. If the beekeeper leaves the swarm box in a public area, sufficient contact information should be left at the scene to notify the public or anyone who may encounter the box.
6. Wait a few days to collect next swarm - OR - 30 minutes. Give others a chance.
7. **!!** If you have five 5 successful catches you must now wait 60 minutes before claiming the next swarm.
8. **!!** If you have 10 successful catches you must now wait 90 minutes before claiming the next swarm.
9. **DO NOT! 'Reply All' with the results of your catch.** If you need to share – email Ken directly at zombeeapiaries@gmail.com.

Please honor these steps and continue to be a SOBA member in good standing.

Anyone not following these steps will be removed from the swarm list.

Contact Ken with any questions or concerns.