During warm summer months, bats look for cooler areas to roost and raise young. They come into Colby College residence halls and buildings through windows, chimneys and doors. Although small and apparently harmless, up to 5% of Maine’s bats carry rabies. PPD staff are often tasked with removing bats and must follow these procedures to protect themselves from contact with potential infected bats.

**Bat Exposure and Rabies Transmission:**

- A bite, scratch, or other direct contact with an infected bat through a break in the skin or through the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, or mouth can transmit rabies.
- **Exposure** is defined as a person or domestic animal that has, or may have had contact with a live bat and cannot completely rule out that a bite, scratch, or contact with bat saliva did not occur.
- Contact must be assumed if a bat has been in close proximity to an unattended young child, or a sleeping or impaired person, and in these cases the bat must be captured for rabies testing.
- Any time a known or potential exposure to a bat has occurred, the bat must be captured for rabies testing purposes.

**Be Prepared:**

- To safely remove bats you must have the following equipment and PPE:
  - Leather gloves (preferably that extend up the forearm)
  - Protective eyewear
  - Long sleeve shirt and pants
  - A long handled net
  - CO₂ fire extinguisher
  - Sealable bat container
Assess the Situation:

- If the bat is located in an area that is not typically accessible to faculty, staff, and students, such as an attic, it should be left alone until it can be removed by a licensed wildlife contractor specializing in bat removal.
- If the bat is located within a space that presents a risk to faculty, staff, and students, such as in a bedroom, an office, a corridor, or other common space where potential human exposure is possible, the bat shall be removed.

Bat Capture Procedures:

**Bat on Ceiling/Wall**

**Option 1: With Gloves Donned**
- Clear the area or room and close the doors and windows
- Slowly (because bats are sensitive to movement) place a large open mouth container over the bat, slide a piece of cardboard between the wall and the container relocating the bat to the inside of the can/container.
- Place appropriate cover over top of can/container while simultaneously removing the cardboard.
- Label lid of container BAT – Do Not Open

**Option 2: CO2 Fire Extinguisher**
- If the bat is in a bad location, such as a corner of the area or room, spray the bat with CO2 from a CO2 fire extinguisher.
- The bat will drop to the floor into a pre-placed container that you can place a cover on, or pick the bat up with the bat gloves, place it into a container with securable cap or cover, and label

**Bat in Flight – with bat gloves donned**
- With the net, you need to capture the bat from behind.
- Once the bat is in the net, pull and secure the draw string to keep the bat from escaping.
- To transfer the bat from the net, freeze the bat with a CO2 extinguisher, and transfer to the labeled container.
**Rabies Testing/Treatment**

- As long as the bat is captured for testing, decisions about rabies treatment can wait until test results are obtained.
- Once the bat is captured, it must be brought to the EHS Director or your supervisor.
- If the office is not open, such as overnight or on the weekends, the properly contained bat can be left in the Environmental, Health, and Safety Manager’s Office. If the bat is not captured, or the brain of the bat has been damaged in the attempt to capture, the required testing cannot be done, and it will have to be assumed that the bat has rabies.
- If the bat is left in the EH&S Director’s office, contact Security to report the bat to the Director by e-mail/phone.
- When in doubt about you or the residents’ exposure to the bat, always capture the bat for testing.

---

**The Numbers:**

- **5-10%** of bats tested by the Maine Department of Health have rabies, but actual incidence rate is thought to be less than 1%
- **91%** of human rabies cases in the US are attributed to bats
- **100%** fatality rate of rabies in humans who do not get treatment
**Questions/Discussion:**

1. Where are some areas you feel it is best to leave the bats alone as they are not a threat to Colby students, visitors, or employees? Where must they be immediately removed?
2. Do you have the proper gear to capture bats safely? Where is it stored?
3. What would be considered contact with a bat, i.e., exposure and require the bat be captured for testing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed Name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions, concerns or comments contact the EHS Director at extension 5504.