

SCENTED PREDATOR SURVEY DISKS Information Sheet
Pocatello Supply Depot, April 1993

Description:

Scented Predator Survey Disks (SPSDs) are solid, white/gray, dry disks made from plaster of paris (calcium sulfate) and absorbed to capacity with liquid Fatty Acid Scent (FAS), a chemical animal attractant. The disks are very malodorous. The plaster of paris disks serve as a controlled-release medium for FAS and disperse the odor molecules into the air over a period of time.

Uses:

SPSDs are used as an animal attractant to census or survey animal (namely canid) populations or to capture animals. The disks are NOT for human use or consumption.

For census or survey lines, 1 disk is placed in the center of a 3 foot area containing sifted dirt or sand. This will allow detection of animal tracks to identify the animal that investigated the disk. Scent stations are usually placed routinely at a predetermined distance from each other and for a predetermined length of survey line. The scent stations are checked daily and tracks/sign of animals visiting the stations are recorded and then erased in preparation for the next day's recording. Disks that have been removed or destroyed by visiting animals are replaced with fresh ones.

For capturing animals, 1 disk is placed inside a live-trap to attract the animal within. When using foot-hold traps or snares, the disk is placed in a small hole beyond the trap so that the animal must step into the trap/snare to reach the disk. When using neck snares or Conibear traps, the disk is placed at the rear of a cubby pen or other enclosure so that the animal must pass through the snare/Conibear to reach the disk.

Personal Protection:

Do NOT open the jar of SPDS inside a closed room or vehicle. Do NOT breath directly into the jar of SPDS or individual disks. Open only outside or under a vented hood or room equipped with an exhaust fan. Handle the disks with tongs or with rubber/vinyl gloves. If necessary, wear a face mask to reduce prolonged odor inhalation when handling in enclosed areas. It is advisable to wear an outer garment when handling disks to reduce malodor impregnation to clothing and skin. After handling the disks, wash hands with soap and water. Personal showering and clothes washing will help remove the residual odors.

Storage and Stability:

SPSDs should be used soon after receipt. If it is necessary to store them for a short period of time, from a few days to weeks, keep them in a cool and dry place in the plastic containers they are shipped in. If it is necessary to store them for longer periods, they should be transferred to glass jars and seal the lids tightly to prevent the vapors from escaping. Plastic lids are advisable, but metal ones can be used if a sheet of plastic is placed over the jar top before the lid is screwed on. Plastic electrical tape can be wrapped around the seam of the lid and the jar to further seal the jar. When using the disks in the field, take only as many as will be placed that day or after the survey lines are placed, take only a small number with to replace disks that may be removed or destroyed by animals. Keep the container of disks out of direct sunlight or heat which may soften them and make them difficult to handle. Placing the container of disks in a small insulated cooler with ice will help keep them from softening.

Precautions and Safety:

SPSDs are mildly corrosive and irritating. If SPDSs are accidentally handled with bare hands or contacted on bare skin, wash with soap and water. If a rash develops or irritation persists, contact a physician and present him with the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) included with each order of disks.

The vapors from SPDSs may cause irritation and destruction to tissues of the upper respiratory tract and eyes under extended use. Avoid continuous direct inhalation of vapors from jar of disks or disks, themselves. If vapors are too overpowering, replace lid on jar and exit to fresh air.

SPSDs will cause retching and vomiting if ingested. The malodorous vapors of the disks should prevent any such ingestion.

SPSDs can be disposed of by burning or underground burial.

Liability:

Pocatello Supply Depot is not responsible for the misuse of SPDSs or for other uses. The user accepts sole responsibility for the use of these disks.

Guarantee or Claims of Effectiveness:

Pocatello Supply Depot makes no guarantee nor claims of effectiveness of SPDSs for attracting animals.

Pocatello Supply Depot
238 E Dillon St, Pocatello, ID 83201

Phone: (208) 236-6920
FAX -6922