

Pocket Gophers

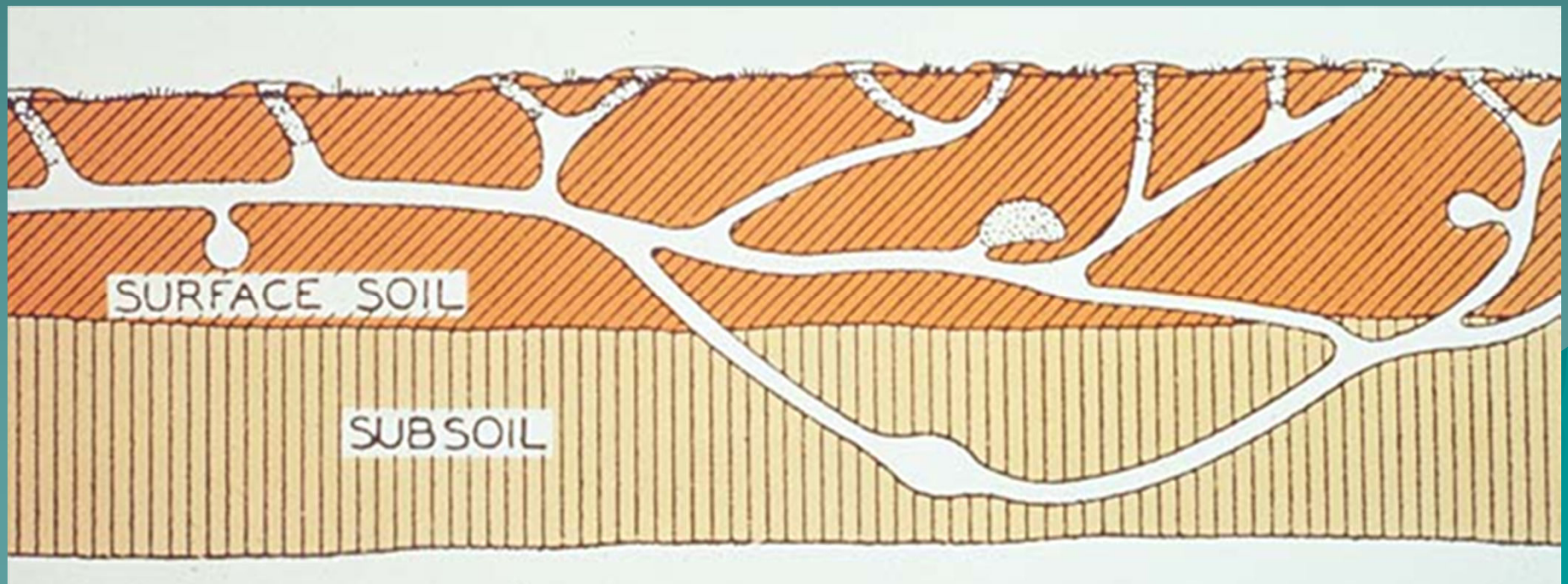


Rodents - the "gnawing mammals"



Behavior...

- Antisocial
- Territorial
- Constantly active
- Prefer soils that are easy to dig in
- Herbivorous



Pocket gopher sign



Plug



Gopher mound



Mole tunnel and hill



Pocket gophers will girdle and kill mature trees and vines.



Blast caused when school workers tried to kill gopher

McClatchy New Service – April 5, 1995

CERES -- Three maintenance workers were trying to freeze a gopher to death.

That, police said Tuesday, was what led to Monday morning's explosion at Fowler Elementary School that sent 19 people to the hospital.

"My comment on it would be that they used extremely poor judgement," said Ceres Unified School District Superintendent Bruce Newlin. "We don't condone this kind of thing."

The three workers were blown out of a utility closet when one of them tried to light a cigarette after spraying the rodent with a freezing solvent.

Sixteen pupils near the explosion suffered minor injuries. None were hospitalized.

On Tuesday, one of the workers said they were simply trying to euthanize the animal when they sprayed it with Misty Gum Remover.

"That's how we normally do it," said maintenance worker Jeff Davis, during a telephone interview.

The 35-year-old man added that workers had used the method before without incident.

"It comes out as a frozen vapor," he said. "You don't think something like that would ignite."

Control Options

- ◆ Exclusion
- ◆ Habitat Change
- ◆ Population Reduction (Removal)

Exclusion

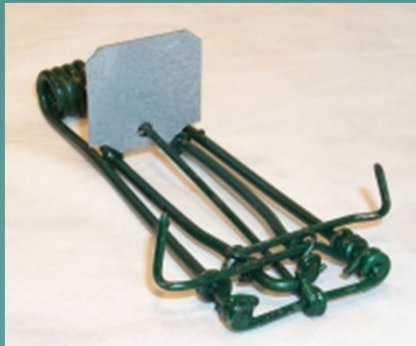


Wire barriers:

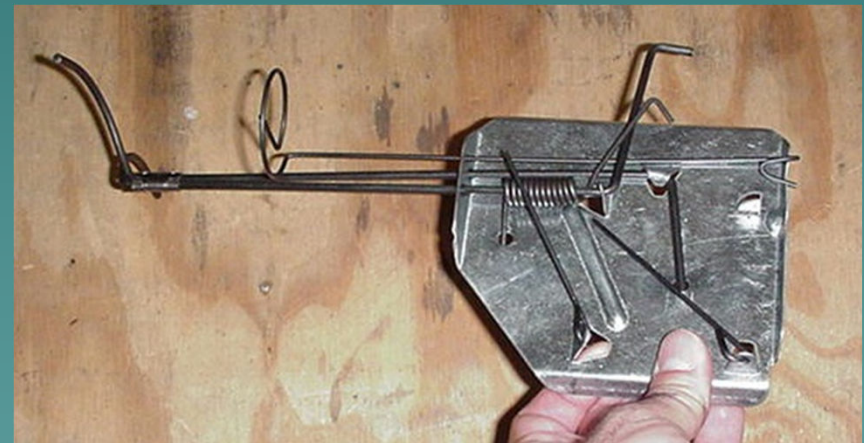
- $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch mesh or smaller
- Fence to a depth of 24 in. + a 6-inch outward lip
- Enclosed basket or box

Traps...

Macabee pincer trap

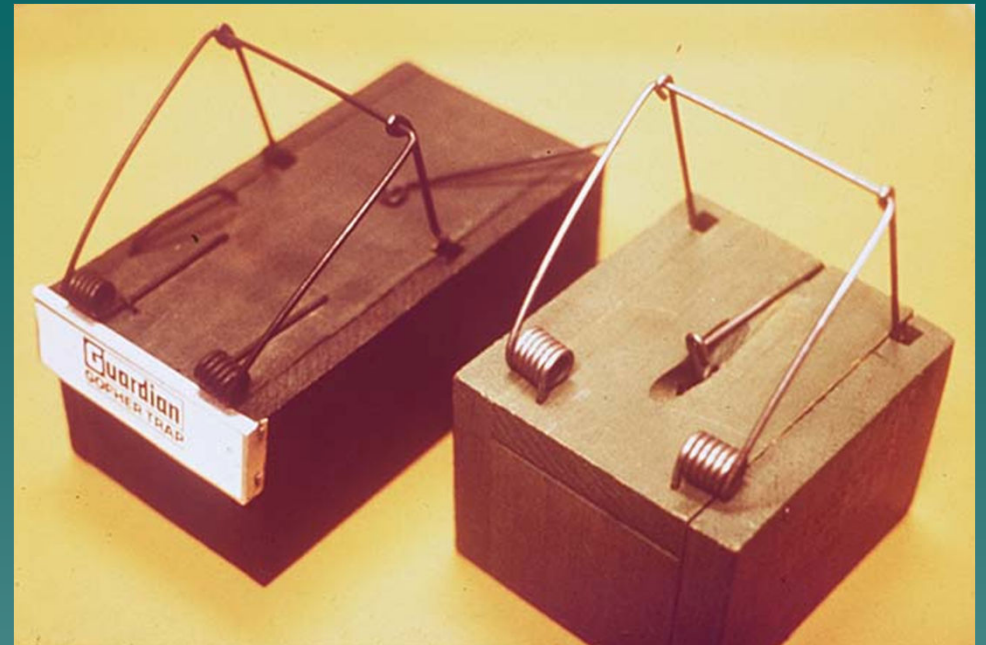


Cinch pincer trap



Traps...

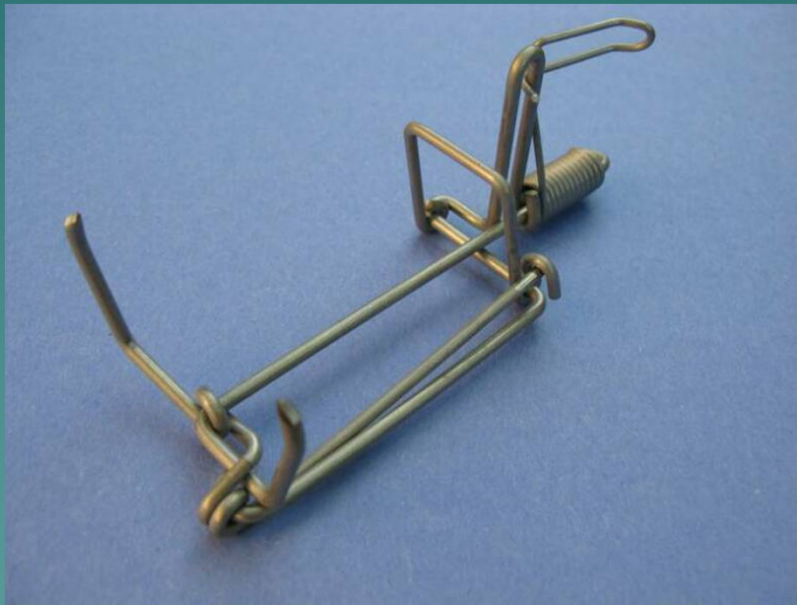
Box traps...
(e.g., Guardian)



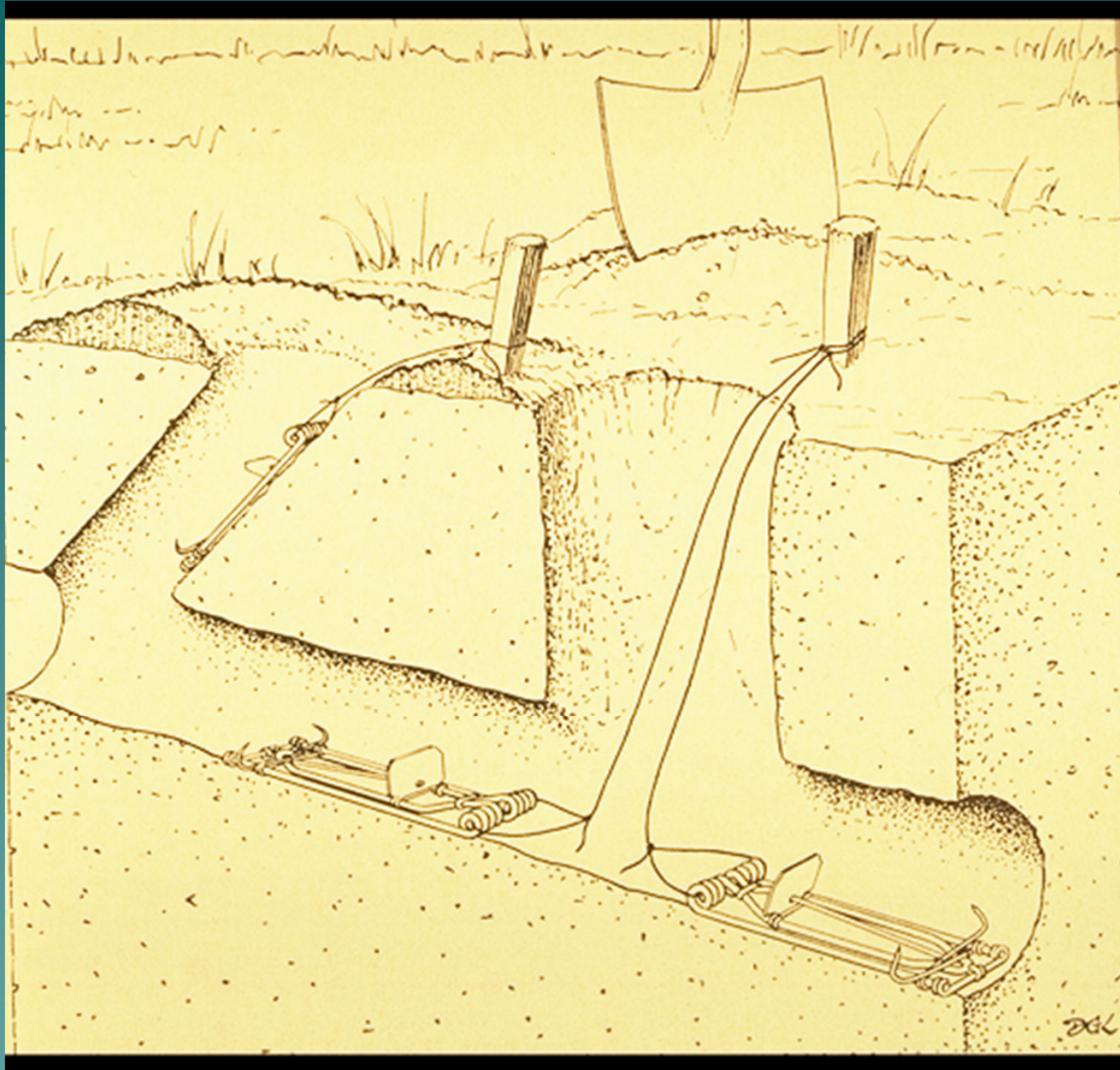
Victor box trap



Newer gopher traps:



Gophinator Trap –
www.traplineproducts.com



Macabee 2-way set in main burrow





gopher traps secured with wire and stake

Box trap set in lateral tunnel



Cinch trap set in lateral tunnel



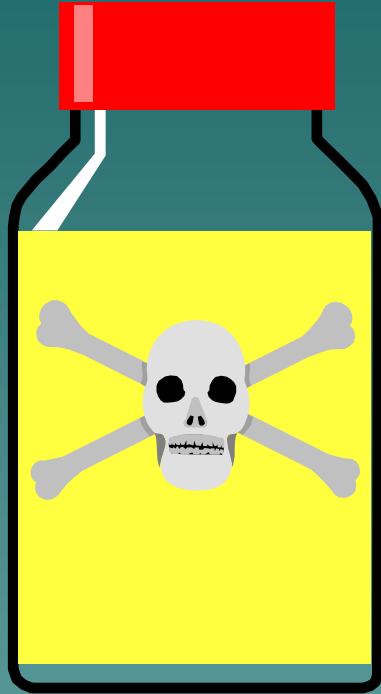
Chronicle / Michael Maloney

Tips on Cinch Trap Use

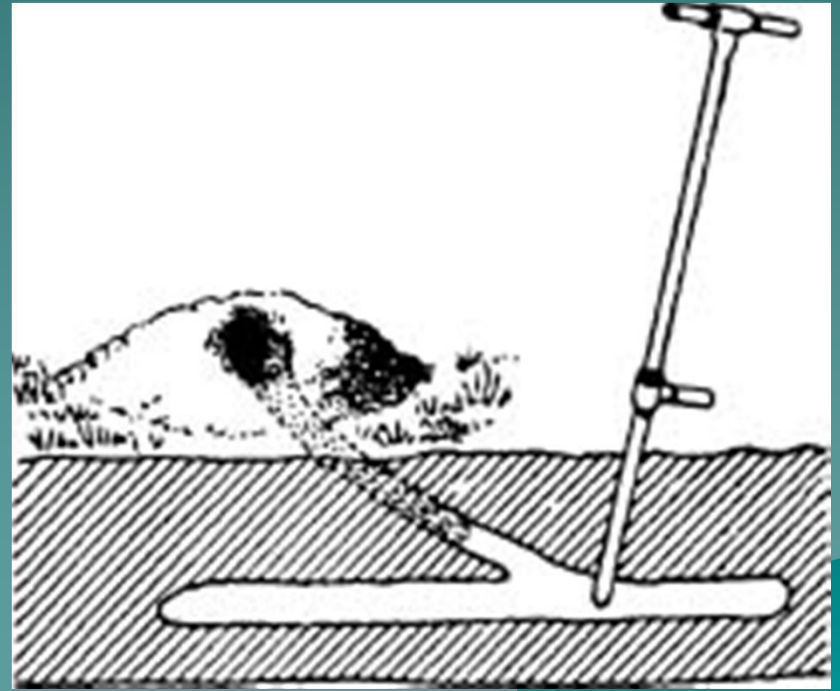
- ◆ Find fresh, recent gopher activity
- ◆ Use 2-3 traps per burrow system



Toxicants:



- Strychnine
- Zinc phosphide
- Anticoagulants
 - chlorophacinone
 - diphacinone



Hand or dispenser application...



Burrow Fumigants

- Aluminum phosphide*
- Gas cartridges
(i.e., carbon, sodium nitrate, etc.)

* **Restricted Use Pesticide**

Cannot be used in most residential environments

Predators? (Biological Control)



