

BEE & WASP SAFETY

Bee or wasp stings do not typically pose a major issue for most people but there are people with severe allergic reactions that can be life-threatening. Dry hot weather is the ideal weather for bees and wasps and they are typically in abundance during the summer and early fall.

Being able to recognize when someone is suffering from a severe allergic reaction from an insect sting can help save a life.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS:

- REACTION SYMPTOMS
- SECONDARY DANGERS
- STING PREVENTION
- STING TREATMENT



BC Forest Safety

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BEE & WASP SAFETY



Injury hazards from bees and wasps should be taken seriously. Even if you are not allergic to them, someone close by may be. Do a site check before entering an area and have an EPI pen nearby if you or a co-worker is severely allergic to insect stings.

REACTIONS AND SYMPTOMS FROM A STING

- Pain
- Redness
- Swelling (at the sting puncture point and surrounding area)
- Flushing
- Hives
- Itching
- Anaphylaxis

SECONDARY HAZARDS OF BEES AND WASPS

- Many people panic if there are bees or wasps around them which can irritate the insect and cause an incident to occur. For example, an individual working at heights on a ladder may unknowingly disturb a nest. A sting can cause panic and they could fall off the ladder.

STING PREVENTION

- Nests are often hidden or camouflaged. Before performing any work in an area, do a site walk and a thorough check for any hazards, including bees and wasps or their nests.
- The most effective way to prevent stings is avoiding areas where bees or wasps are found. If you are severely allergic to bees or wasps, avoid any work that puts you at great risk of getting stung.
- Wear clothing that covers as much skin as possible when working in areas where bees and wasps may be present.

STING TREATMENT

- If a person has a history of severe reactions to stings, call 911 immediately, then contact your first aid attendant.
- If the person is showing signs of a severe reaction or cannot breathe, inject epinephrine into the outer muscle of the thigh if it is available.
- For individuals who are not severely allergic, the first step is to remove the stinger with the edge of a credit card (or something similar). After the stinger is removed, apply ice or after-bite to the area to control any swelling.

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