

Safety Meeting  
**Bites and Stings**



Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

With the onset of warmer weather, we will begin to see more animals, rodents, and insects soon. Being aware of the dangers they present could prevent you from receiving painful, or even deadly, bites and stings. Be alert for snakes, bees, wasps, hornets, ant hills, scorpions, rodents, and angry dogs.

Some varieties of snakes found in North America have venom that is poisonous to humans. Learn which harmful snakes may exist in your part of the country and how to identify them. If you come across a snake that you think may be dangerous, don't make any sudden moves. Stay still until it moves away, or back away slowly.

In construction, it is difficult to avoid areas where insects are found; but you can reduce your chances of being stung or bitten by keeping your eyes open for nests. To certain individuals, the danger of insect stings can prove as serious as snake bites. In particular, watch for bees, hornets, yellow jackets, wasps, and some types of ants. Yellow jacket nests are often found in holes in the ground among high weeds and brush. Favorite nesting places for wasps and hornets are under forms, in laydown yards, and up under stored equipment and materials. If you spot one of these nests where you need to work, spray the nest with one of the commercial sprays manufactured for this purpose.

If an insect bites you, obtain first aid immediately and see a doctor if the reaction is severe. Stings from insects can be deadly! If you or someone else has a history of allergic reactions to insect bites, is subject to hay fever or asthma, or is not promptly relieved of symptoms, call a physician or take the victim to the nearest medical center immediately. In the case of a highly sensitive person, do not wait for the symptoms to appear - delay can be fatal. Death from a bee sting is rarely due to the venom itself. Rather, it is usually due to acute allergic reactions to, or anaphylaxis caused by, insect proteins.

If a dog or cat bites someone, try to find out whether or not it has had its shots. You may want to call the animal control department to help you find or catch the animal. Bites and stings are usually just minor inconveniences; however, they can be very serious problems. If you have a severe allergy, make sure that someone on the site knows. If you are stung, take care of the wound and watch for infection.

**SAFETY REMINDER:** Don't underestimate the danger that rodents present.. Even small rodents that are threatened or cornered may bite! Treatment may require painful rabies shots.

Employee Signatures

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