

Africanized Honey Bees

Safety Meeting Packet

Protect Your Workforce



Despite their reputation as “killer bees,” it is possible for people to coexist with Africanized honey bees. However, due to their aggressive nature, it is essential to know how to work safely in areas where they are found, and what workers should do if attacked by these bees.

Within the United States, Africanized honey bees are generally limited to the southwest, but populations have been found in Florida, California, and as far

north as Utah and Oklahoma.

Africanized honey bees are less selective about the location of their nests. They have been known to nest in sites provided by human populations. Such areas include, but are not limited to: yard waste, construction debris and even buildings (i.e. woodpiles, concrete blocks, or garage attics).

Identification



Visually, Africanized honey bees are nearly impossible to identify from their European counterparts without using special equipment. However, they can be more easily identified through their

behavior. Africanized honey bees are more defensive than European honey bees. When they are threatened, hundreds of bees may attack a single intruder. This is different from European honey bees where only a few individual bees attack.

Africanized honey bees also attack over a much greater distance than European honey bees when threatened. Africanized honey bees may attack from fifty feet or more and may continue to attack for over a quarter mile from the nest.

Exposure and Prevention

If Africanized honey bees are found, stay away from the bees and nest as much as possible and try to avoid disturbing the nest any further. If the colony remains undisturbed, move away from the area immediately and contact a professional to remove the nest.

If the nest becomes disturbed:

- Run from the area as quickly as possible. Any hesitation may result in being swarmed before escaping.
- Do not try to dodge the bees, run in the most direct path available to shelter
- Cover the head, face, and airways while running.
- Take shelter as quickly as possible in an enclosed area
- Avoid swatting or agitating the bees any further
- Once safe from immediate danger, contact the appropriate professional to remove the nest.

Medical Treatment

Home Treatment

If stung, remove the stinger using a dull blade or credit card to scrape the stinger out. Avoid trying to pull the stinger out. Once the stinger is removed, wash the sting site with soap and water and monitor for adverse reactions. Over-the-counter anti-histamines may help reduce the swelling.

Emergency Medical Treatment

If someone with an allergy is stung, call 9-1-1 immediately or get to the nearest emergency room. Medical attention may be necessary even if the person has no allergy.

Due to the Africanized honey bees swarming behavior, a person may receive hundreds of stings at one time. Only 10 stings per pound of body weight may be safely endured. An average, healthy adult can withstand around 1100 stings.





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Safety Meeting Attendance Acknowledgement

Company Name _____
 Department / Division _____
 Meeting Date & Time _____ AM PM
 Meeting Location _____
 Name & Title of Individual Conducting Meeting _____

Key Meeting Discussion Points / Important Reminders:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Internal Procedures Reviewed:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

By signing this document, you confirm your attendance at the meeting and acknowledge the issues addressed above!

Employees in Attendance		
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
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(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____

Employees not present: _____

Suggestions/Recommendations to improve workplace safety and health: _____

Actions Taken: _____

Manager/Supervisor: _____ Date: _____

Disclaimer:

The information provided above was assembled using multiple resources. However, these materials do not contain ALL the information available regarding the required safety standards under local, provincial, state, or federal law for your industry.
