

SAFETY MEMO

Recent Increase in Insect Bites and Stings

Recently there has been an increase in incidents involving insect bites and stings:



- Insect sting/bite to left hand of middle finger (BTRF - 08/31/11)
- Contractor received insect sting/bite while riding in truck back to unit (BTCP - 08/30/11)
- Contractor received insect sting while working at HF3 T/A (BTRF - 08/30/11)
- Contractor sustained insect bite to left calf while sitting inside port-a-can (BTRF - 08/28/11)
- Contractor sustained wasp stings while walking to bus loading area (BTCP - 08/27/11)

Reminder!

If a bite or sting is incurred on the job, ***report the incident immediately*** so the proper treatment can be administered.

Also, the very best defense against these unwanted guests is to develop a good offense. In addition to timely and thorough extermination treatment programs, keep these safety reminders in mind:

- Wear long-sleeved clothing to protect arms and legs; avoid white, bright colors and flower prints, as these could attract stinging insects.
- Avoid perfumes, colognes, scented soaps and cosmetics whose odor could attract stinging insects.
- Watch for insects around bushes and flowers.
- To protect feet, wear appropriate foot wear; wasps and yellow jackets feed off trash, so they are frequently on the ground and sidewalks.
- Try not to swat at insects or move too quickly if they fly near you; threatened insects tend to sting.
- Watch food, especially sweet food and drinks; inspect open soda cans for evidence of stinging insects before you drink from them.
- Use insect repellent, but read the label; the most effective repellents contain DEET, yet they should contain no more than 10 percent of this ingredient. NOTE: The use of DEET containing insect repellants on flame retardant clothing (FRC) will reduce the protective performance of the clothing. Consequently, DEET containing products should be applied only to exposed areas of skin and must not be applied directly to FRC's.
- Do not place your hands, feet in places you can not see.
- Turn on the lights and make some noise! Spiders and other creatures will likely retreat from the area if you make your presence known.



Remember, develop a good offense and by taking appropriate action steps to avoid an unpleasant bite or sting.