



MAFES Dawg Tracks

September 8, 2014



Prevent Insect Bites and Stings



Spring, Summer and Fall are my three favorite seasons of the year. Like many other facets of life, there always has to be a few "lumps in the gravy." With these seasons come the threat of insect bites and a few other idiosyncrasies.

But like the old saying, "if you want a little sunshine, you have to put up with a little rain." With these glorious seasons, there is the threat of insect bites. However, there are steps and precautions that we can take to prepare and prevent the consequences of these pesky, little critters:

BE ON THE ALERT-

- ✓ Summertime presents certain dangers, especially for workers in agriculture, who spend much of their time outdoors.
- ✓ Among these dangers are insects that bite or sting, such as spiders, mosquitoes, ticks, bees, wasps and hornets. You can reduce the risks of insect bites by wearing long-sleeve shirts, long pants and socks when you are outside. Obviously, insect repellants will help as well.
- ✓ Avoid colognes, hair spray and perfumes.

TIPS FOR REMOVING THEIR HABITAT-

- Eliminate standing water in old tires, rain gutters, buckets, plastic covers or any other containers where mosquitoes can breed.
- Keep trash containers closed and clean up after eating outdoors or in their proximity.
- Drain or fill temporary pools with dirt.
- Generally, be aware of all areas where water can stand and will offer a prime place for the insects to breed.

BEE STINGS-

- Thousands of people are stung by bees each year. In most cases, a bee won't sting you unless it is provoked.
- If bees are nearby, avoid rapid movements. If a yellow jacket, wasp or hornet lands on you, don't slap at it or swat at it. Try to blow it away or gently brush it away.
- If you do get stung, remove the stinger from your skin as quickly as possible. Don't grasp the stinger with your fingers or tweezers.
- But, gently scrape the area with your fingernail or try to remove the stinger by scraping with the edge of a knife.
- Some people are allergic to bee stings, which can be life-threatening and sometimes fatal.
- In most people, a bee sting will result in localized pain, swelling and redness for about 48 hours. Wash the area with soap and water and apply a cold pack to reduce the swelling. See a doctor if the symptoms worsen or persist.
- Immediately contact your local medical services if you or a co-worker are stung and break out in the hives, have trouble breathing, become dizzy, vomit, get stomach cramps or diarrhea, or have any other severe reaction.
- If you have had a severe reaction to an insect sting in the past, immediately notify your supervisor and seek medical attention.

Ted Gordon – Risk Mgmt. / Loss Control Mgr.

MAFES / MSU-ES (662) 566-2201

Excerpts: www.cdc.org

Safety Daily Advisor

www.Gempler's.com

5/12/2014

MOSQUITO AND SPIDER BITES-

- Bites from mosquitoes and most spiders generally don't cause serious harm, unless you're allergic to spider venom.
- Avoid scratching bites. Instead wash the area with soap and water and apply a cold pack if needed to reduce the swelling. Ointments such as calamine lotion will also help to reduce the itchiness.
- Contact the local emergency medical services if you or a co-worker shows signs of a severe reaction from a bite.

TICKS BITES-

- ✓ Ticks are small insects that feed on human blood. Tick bites are painless and can remain imbedded in your skin for days and go unnoticed.
- ✓ The best way to remove a tick is to use small tweezers to grasp it where its mouthparts enter the skin. If you can't get it out or if its mouthparts remain in your skin, seek medical help. Wash the bite area with soap and water.

LYME DISEASE-

- Some deer ticks carry Lyme disease, which can be very serious if untreated.
- They feed on blood, and infected ticks can transport the disease as they feed. The deer tick prefers wild animals, especially mice, birds, opossums, raccoons and deer. Their favorite habitats are dense and thick woods with heavy undergrowth of shrubs and small trees. Like mosquitoes, they can be found in bird baths, bird feeders, wood piles, and tree houses out in the woods.

PERSONAL PROTECTION-

- Use EPA-registered mosquito repellants when necessary and follow the label for instructions and precautions closely.
- As mentioned above, long sleeve shirts, long pants and socks with your pant legs stuffed in the socks gives you added protection - and a head covering as well.
- Make sure that the doors and windows are "bug-tight."
- Try to plan your work after sunrise and before sunset when the mosquitoes and insects are less active.
- Replace outdoor lights with yellow ones, as they are less attractive to mosquitoes. They aren't really repellants, but serve as partial repellants.
- Clear out vegetation in wooded areas.
- Keep the grass areas mowed.
- Remove brush piles.

TICK CONTROL-INSECTICIDES FOR CONSIDERATION-

- Sevin (Carbaryl)
- Premethrin (a pyrethroid)
- Dursban (Chlorpyrifos)
- Diazon (Spectride)

**PREPARE & PREVENT
INSTEAD OF
REPAIR & REPENT**
***** **** *****

K.I.S.S. > KEEP IT SAFE & SOUND!!!