



Safety Around Stray Dogs and Insects

A worker can often encounter a variety of animals and insects on the jobsite, including dogs, bees, wasps, or hornets.

Stray Dogs

Dogs are commonly encountered outdoors or on the worksite and they will typically be either aggressive, playful, or frightened. It is important to be extremely cautious and keep a safe distance from an unfamiliar aggressive or frightened dog.

An aggressive, frightened, or playful dog will often:

- Bark loudly.
- Stand on the tips of its paws to make itself appear larger.
- Lie on its belly.
- Curl its tail between its legs.
- Snarl.
- Approach and retreat from you.
- Wag its tail horizontally.

As a rule, it is always a good idea to stay away from an unknown dog because they can be unpredictable.

Bees and Wasps

Working outdoors also means that you could encounter bees and wasps. Getting stung from a bee or a wasp can cause pain and irritation and can be deadly in certain circumstances.

Bees and wasps are often attracted to:

- Human sweat.
- Body oils.
- Perfumes.
- Heavy smelling colognes.

Workers should avoid fragrances whenever possible and it is a good idea to bath daily to eliminate excess sweat or body oils. Before beginning work in any field setting, it is always a good idea to take note if any bees or wasps are flying around the worksite. These insects typically fly close to their nests and can become agitated from the vibration of machinery or from other loud noises.

If You Are Attacked

If you are attacked by bees or wasps it is important to get into an area such as a truck cab or inside of a building as quickly as possible. If you are stung outdoors and cannot get inside, it is better to run to a shaded area, rather than staying out in the sunlight.

Bees release a chemical when they sting that attracts other bees and this can lead to swarming. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that approximately 100 people die every year from allergic reactions from bee and wasp stings. If you know that you are allergic to bee or wasp stings you should consult your doctor and ask if you should carry an epinephrine auto injector (EpiPen) in the event you are stung. It is also a good idea to wear a medical bracelet or necklace signifying that you are allergic to bee or wasp stings and let your employer know about your allergy.

Knowledge and proper training can prevent workers from experiencing the painful side of dogs and insects. It is important to be properly trained on how to react when you see insects or dogs and to be as cautious as possible when working around them.

"This article is intended for informational purposes only. It should not be used as a basis for medical diagnosis or treatment."

Jason Berry, Senior Loss Prevention Representative

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