SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Public Health
Environmental Health Services

Bee and Wasp Safety Tips

1. **Wear** clean light colored clothing and bathe regularly as sweat may anger bees. Dark and bright colors may attract bees and wasps.

2. **Avoid**:
   - Flowering plants, when possible,
   - Swatting at bees and wasps flying around,
   - Areas where a buzzing noise is heard as there may be increased bee/wasp activity,
   - Removing/destroying hives or nests yourself,
   - Perfumed soaps and deodorants,
   - Scented shampoos, and
   - Bananas and banana scented items.

3. **Wear** a bee suit, hood, gloves, and boots when working with or in an area where bees/wasps are active. If a bee suit is not available, dress to cover as much of your body as possible.

4. **Keep** work areas clean of leftover food and trash.

5. **Check** for hives hanging from trees and eaves. Some wasps build their nests in the ground.

6. **If** attacked by multiple bees/wasps, run in a straight line and protect your head and eyes as much as possible. Some bees will continue pursuit for up to a quarter mile. Get indoors for protection.

   Note: European honey worker bees will die once they have stung. Wasps can sting multiple times.

7. **Do NOT** jump into a body of water. Africanized honey bees will wait for you to surface to continue stinging.

8. **Should** bees/wasps enter your vehicle, calmly pull over and roll down all of the windows.