



## Safety Bulletin – Yellow Jackets Bees, Wasps

One of the most instantly recognizable insects. Their black & yellow striping signals keep away, usually 12 mm/0.5 in in length.

Signs and symptoms of an insect bite/sting result from the injection of venom or other substances into your skin.

The sting sometimes triggers **allergic** reaction. Severity of your reaction depends on your sensitivity to the venom or substance and whether you've been stung or bitten more than once.

**If stung**, most immediate reactions are mild, causing annoying itching, redness, pain and swelling that disappear within a few days or so. A delayed reaction may cause fever, hives, painful joints and swollen glands. You could experience both the immediate and the delayed reactions.

## First Aid

### for mild reaction:

Move to a safe area, out of reach to avoid more stings.

If left, remove the stinger.

Removing the stinger, use a dull knife/credit card and scrape it in the opposite direction of the stinger.

Don't try to pull it out or you'll squeeze the attached sac and inject more venom.

Apply a cold pack or cloth filled with ice to reduce pain swelling.

Apply hydrocortisone cream.

Take an antihistamine containing (Benadryl, Tylenol)

Few people develop **severe reaction** (Anaphylaxis).

Include swelling of lips/throat, difficulty breathing. Nausea/cramps/vomiting may progress rapidly. Also if delayed reaction of a few hours, get immediate medical care.

Call 911 or emergency medical assistance if any of the signs or symptoms occur.

Check if the person is carrying any medications or kit. Administer antihistamines, loosen any tight clothing.

Place the person, so the feet are higher than the head, for anaphylactic shock. To prevent aspiration, turn the patient to the side.

Initiate CPR when required.

DID YOU

KNOW

## Yellow Jackets;

- not only sting, but can also bite.
- chase you hundreds of yards.
- stingers are not barbed and so it can sting numerous times.
- with each sting, more venom is injected into the your body.
- when the stinger is left in place, the pain and the swelling will not subside.
- your reaction to a sting will appear within 20 minutes to two hours.
- sting can be itchy – follows after pain.
- swelling can increase after 24 hrs. following a sting and can last for seven days.
- sting without provocation.

*Yellow jackets look like honey bees without the fuzz*

our  
path to  
**Zero**



## Precautions

They're easily provoked and will attack in force, chasing the perceived threat.

- Don't swat at flying insects. If they land on you, gently brush them off, then walk away.
- Yellow jackets travel in groups and are far more aggressive by the end of summer. Frantically looking for the last of a dwindling food supply before winter sets in.
- Be aware when working with powered equipment. Loud vibrating noises disturb yellow jackets and can cause them to attack. Any kind of fast unexpected movement could actually make the yellow jacket sting you.
- Sugary drinks should be checked frequently to make sure a yellow jacket has not entered the drink container. Their diet changes to include more sugars in the fall.



**Honey Bee**



**Wasp**

**Yellow Jacket Wasp**

