



Stinging insects present significant hazards to arborists while working in and among trees. Understanding these risks and implementing effective control measures are essential for ensuring the safety and well-being of arborists.

DESCRIBE the Hazards

Types of Stinging Insects: Arborists encounter various species including bees, wasps, hornets, and yellow jackets, each with different nesting habits and levels of aggressiveness.

Behavioural Risks: Stinging insects may perceive arborists as threats when their nests are disturbed, leading to defensive attacks.

Allergic Reactions: Stings can cause mild to severe allergic reactions in individuals, with symptoms ranging from localized swelling and pain to life-threatening anaphylaxis.

DISCUSS Control Measures

Preventive Planning:

- ◆ Conduct thorough site inspections before beginning work to identify and mark locations of stinging insect nests. This can include ground nests, nests in tree cavities and nests suspended from branches.
- ◆ In cases of known nests, schedule work activities during times of day when stinging insects are less active, typically early morning or late afternoon.

Communication and Awareness:

- ◆ Establish clear communication among team members regarding the presence of stinging insects and potential risks.
- ◆ All staff should constantly monitor for nests as work is ongoing.
- ◆ Educate your team about the identification and behavior of stinging

insects to enhance awareness and preparedness.

Emergency Preparedness:

- ◆ Maintain well-stocked first aid kits equipped with supplies for treating stings and allergic reactions.
- ◆ Discuss emergency response procedures for managing severe allergic reactions and other medical emergencies caused by stinging insects.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM):

- ◆ Implement IPM strategies to manage stinging insect populations, including nest removal by trained professionals and application of environmentally friendly deterrents.

Regulatory Compliance:

- ◆ Adhere to local regulations and guidelines for the management and control of stinging insects to ensure environmental protection and worker safety.
- ◆ Stay informed about updates in safety standards and best practices related to handling and disposing of pesticides used in arboricultural operations.

DEMONSTRATE Knowledge

- ◆ Demonstrate that you can identify different species of stinging insects as well as their behavior patterns.
- ◆ Discuss distinguishing features and typical locations where stinging insects may establish nests.
- ◆ Discuss potential habitat modification techniques to discourage stinging insects from nesting near work areas.

By addressing the hazards associated with stinging insects through education, preparedness, and safety protocols, arborists can mitigate risks and create safer working environments.

Date: _____

Location: _____

Presenter: _____

MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY
(Each participant is to sign below)
