

TOOLBOX TALKS

Plants & Wildlife

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Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions on the job site. For additional Toolbox Talks, please visit SAFETY.CAT.COM™

TOPIC: Jobsites are often teeming with plants, animals and insects. Knowing how to avoid and treat wildlife related injuries will make every jobsite safer.

Insect Stings

AVOID wearing bright colors, jewelry and floral scents. Move slowly away from stinging insects. Rapid movement may provoke a sting.

CARE

- Scrape stinger/sac from skin with a long fingernail or plastic card
- Wash the site with soap and water, cover and keep it clean
- Apply a cold pack to reduce pain and swelling
- Observe victim for at least 30 minutes for signs of an allergic reaction

Tick Bites

AVOID by tucking pants into socks and applying repellent to shoes, ankles and legs when in tick habitats. Inspect clothing frequently.

CARE

- Wearing gloves, grasp tick with tweezers and pull slowly
- Do NOT burn the tick off or apply petroleum jelly or nail polish
- Wash the bite with soap and warm water
- Apply antiseptic or triple antibiotic ointment and wash hands thoroughly
- Seek medical care if rash, flu-like symptoms or joint pain appear

Snake Bites

AVOID reaching into dark crevices, heavy brush or hollow logs without investigating the area first. If bitten, move away from snake immediately to avoid a second bite. A snake's striking distance is about 1/2 the total length of the snake.

CARE

- Carry victim or, if alone, walk very slowly to help - Do NOT allow heart rate to increase
- Wash bite with soap and water and get antivenin from medical facility (must be given within hours)
- Do NOT apply ice, suction or a tourniquet
- Do NOT cut the wound or use electric shock

Poisonous Plants

AVOID by recognizing and avoiding poison ivy, oak and sumac. Wear long sleeves, pants and gloves when it is not possible to avoid.

CARE

- Mild reactions: clean with soap and water, then apply rubbing alcohol
- Severe reactions: seek physician-prescribed corticosteroids

* For severe reactions to plants and wildlife, seek immediate medical treatment.

Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants:

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