



# SAFETY TALK

**Job Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Job Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Bees & Wasps

Bees and wasps are often present at construction sites and at home. Getting stung is considered a low safety risk for most, however, an estimated 2.5 million people in America are allergic to bee stings.

**Bees vs. Wasps:** It's usually easy to distinguish between bees and wasps because bees are generally hairy with stout bodies and wide, flattened hind legs. Unlike bees, wasps are generally smooth and have distinct "waists". Another way to tell which insect is on your jobsite is by their hive or nest. Honeybees will build a wax comb and wasps will form nests of paper-like material. Wasps, which include Paper wasps, Hornets and Yellowjackets, are more aggressive than bees and, unlike Honeybees, can sting multiple times. A Honeybee will only sting once because the stinger is destroyed when used. Wasps can sting multiple times because they retain their stinger. They do have something in common: if their nest is disturbed or they feel threatened, there is a good chance of getting stung.

**Where:** Although there are many places bees and wasps hide on a construction site, they're known for invading roofs and walls, being on or in construction equipment, and building their nests or hives in or around office trailers and Conex storage boxes. Both insects also love to burrow underneath piles of materials. We also regularly find nests in Port-a-Jon's.

**How to Prevent Stings:** To avoid provoking aggressive behavior from bees and wasps do not swat at them when they are flying near you and try not to disturb their nests/hives. If you see multiple bees or wasps in one location this could mean they are protecting their nest or hive. Be watchful for bees and wasps when entering a Conex or a Port-a-Jon. They can build nests or hives in very short periods of time, sometimes overnight. Avoid wearing perfumes, scented soaps and watch where you are stepping and digging. Wearing bug spray can lower your chances of being stung.

**What to do if stung:** If stung by a bee, gently remove the stinger with tweezers. Benadryl and icing the sting can help relieve pain, swelling and redness. If you start having more severe symptoms such as hives, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, notify your Supervisor immediately. If you are allergic to bee stings let your co-workers know. It is also a good idea have an Epi-Pen with you or in your vehicle if you're allergic.

**SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SITE SPECIFIC TRAINING:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ATENDEES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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