ESP FOCUS

Africanized Honey Bees





You could be stung by Mother Nature!

In addition to the earthquakes, fires and winter storms that have occurred in Southern California during the past decade, Mother Nature has introduced a new threat - Africanized Honey Bees.

The bees first appeared in the United States in Texas in 1990. Since then, they have migrated to other southwestern states. Their presence in California was first confirmed in October 1994.

As of late November 2000, Africanized Honey Bees have colonized a 48,900-square mile area of Southern California. The colonized area includes all or parts of Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties.

Because Africanized Honey Bees attack in larger swarms than their European cousins, multiple stings are the rule, rather than the exception.

Wherever you live, work or play, use the recommendations on the reverse side of this Focus Sheet to help reduce your risk of death and injury from Africanized Honey Bee stings.

Each month, ESP will examine a different hazard that could affect Californians and offer suggestions on how to reduce its impacts. These hazards are not limited to the month featured in the ESP Focus Sheet and can occur at any time.

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Fact vs. Fiction

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In many ways, Africanized Honey Bees and European Honey Bees are similar. Both:	Reduce your chances of being stung by tak
Have the same appearance	Check work areas, yards, pens and ousing power equipment
☐ Sting only once	☐ Call a pest control company or e
☐ Have the same venom	agency to handle nests or swarms.
Africanized Honey Bees also have their own characteristics.	 Remain alert for bees while participal games and other activities.
They:	☐ Walk away and stay away if you find a
☐ Are more aggressive☐ Guard a larger area around their hives	
☐ Become upset more easily by humans, machinery and	Reacting to an Attack
loud noises	_
☐ Respond faster and in larger swarms	If a swarm of bees attacks:
Chase threatening humans and animals for as much as a quarter mile.	Run away in a straight line for at l shelter is unavailable. Cover your f jacket and hide in a car or house if a to chase you.
Neat Cites	☐ Find a safe area as soon as possible.
Nest Sites	□ Do not jump into water.
Africanized Honey Bees are not choosy about where they settle. Likely nesting sites include:	
☐ Abandoned or rarely used vehicles	Treating Stings
☐ Empty containers	If a bee or bees sting you:
☐ Places and objects with holes	☐ Remove the stinger quickly; scrape in
☐ Fences	knife blade or credit card; do not rel
Old tires	squeezing the stinger.
☐ Trees	☐ Wash the affected area with soap and☐ Apply a cold pack to relieve pain.
☐ In or around structures	 See a doctor if breathing is difficult,
☐ Garages	times or if you are allergic to bee sting
☐ Outbuildings	
☐ Sheds	Extracted and adapted from "Bee Alert: Af
	Facts," published by the Cooperative Ext
Creating a Safer Environment	California Division of Agriculture and Natura
To make your environment safer and reduce your risk of a sting: Teach children to use caution and respect all bees.	
☐ Teach children to notify a teacher or adult if they find a	
nest or swarm.	
☐ Eliminate all potential nesting sites.	
☐ Check walls and eaves of all structures.	GETTING IT DONE
 Close off wall, chimney and plumbing-related gaps that are more than 1/8 inch large 	PREPARING FOR ALL
☐ Cover rain spouts, vents, etc. with 1/8" hardware cloth.	LUTAVIIAO LOV HTT
☐ Watch for regular entrance and exit routes used by swarms during spring, summer and fall.	This action sheet is produced Survival Program (ESP).
 Meet with neighbors to discuss the threat by Africanized Honey Bees and to increase community preparedness. 	campaign designed to incre- earthquake preparedness. ES County of Los Angeles. Th
 Put together safety plans for your home and place of work. 	Office of Emergency Service

Avoiding an Attack

ing precautions:

- other buildings before
- mergency response
- ting in outdoor sports,
- a swarm or nest.
- least one-half mile if face and eyes with a bee or swarm begins

- t out with a fingernail, lease more venom by
- d water.
- you are stung several gs.

fricanized Honey Bee tension, University of al Resources.

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as part of the Earthquake ESP is an awareness ase individual and home SP was developed by the ne California Governor's es (OES); representatives from Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Yuma counties; and representatives from Southern California Edison assist in the development of campaign materials and coordination of the campaign.