

MISTAKEN IDENTITIES

HONEY BEES

- Nests in ground, trees and structures
- Can sting only once



BUMBLE BEE

- Nests in ground
- Can sting multiple times



CARPENTER BEE (FEMALE)

- Solitary
- Nests in wood
- Can sting multiple times



CARPENTER BEE (MALE)

- Solitary
- Nests in wood
- Cannot sting



YELLOW JACKET

- Nests in ground, trees and structures
- Attracted to food
- Can sting multiple times



PAPER WASP

- Nests on trees, shrubs, and structures (often under eaves)
- Can sting multiple times



MUD DAUBER

- Solitary
- Nests on or inside of structures
- Can sting multiple times



SAFETY

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

- Teach children to be cautious and respectful of all bees.
- Check with a doctor about bee sting kits and procedures if allergic to bee stings.
- Develop a safety plan for your home and yard.
- Organize a neighborhood meeting about the AHB to help increase safety and awareness.

OUTDOOR SAFETY

- Be alert when outdoors.
- Use care when entering sheds or out-buildings.
- Examine work area before operating power equipment. Keep pets and children indoors until you are certain there are no bee hives in the area. Loud noises and vibrations may disturb a nearby hive.
- Examine areas before tethering or penning pets and livestock.
- Keep dogs under control when hiking.
- Stay alert when horseback riding through brush or under low hanging branches.

IF YOU DISCOVER A SWARM OR COLONY OF BEES

- Avoid the area.
- **Do not** disturb or tease bees.
- Keep children and pets away from the area.
- **Do not** attempt to control or remove the bees yourself. Contact a professional.
- If you accidentally encounter bees, do not panic. Remain calm and quietly retreat until the bees are out of sight.
- **Do not** throw rocks, shoot, burn or spray water on swarms and hives.
- **Do not** attempt to spray or douse bees with aerosol pesticides and other chemicals.

IF STUNG

FOR STINGS IN GENERAL

- Go quickly to a safe area.
- Remove the stinger as soon as possible.
- Scrape the stinger out with a fingernail or credit card. Avoid squeezing the venom sac.
- Wash the sting area with soap and water.
- Apply an ice pack to relieve pain and swelling.

FOR MULTIPLE STINGS OR HYPERSENSITIVE INDIVIDUALS

- Seek immediate medical attention.
- Remove the stinger(s) as soon as possible.
- Count the number of stingers removed.
- Watch for allergic reactions such as difficulty breathing, hives and dizziness.

IF ATTACKED

- Leave the area quickly.
- Protect head and face with arms and/or available clothing.
- Seek shelter in the nearest building or vehicle.
- **Do not** jump into water.
- Remove stingers as quickly as possible.
- Call 911.

WHO TO CALL:

MULTIPLE STINGING EMERGENCIES Call 911

SWARMS/HIVES (OUTSIDE OF A BUILDING)
Contact the Los Angeles County West
Vector Control District at (310) 915-7370
Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm

SWARMS/HIVES (INSIDE OF A BUILDING)
Contact a licensed structural pest control
operator by consulting your local yellow
pages or by dialing 411

LIVING WITH AFRICANIZED HONEY BEES



Los Angeles County West Vector Control District
6750 Centinela Avenue
Culver City, CA 90230
(310) 915-7370
www.lawestvector.org

BEE PREPARED



WHAT IS A VECTOR?

An arthropod vector is any insect (or other arthropod) of public health significance that is capable of transmitting a disease or causing human discomfort or injury.

AFRICANIZED HONEY BEES

Africanized honey bees (AHBs), also called “killer bees”, arrived in Southern California in 1994 and has become established in Los Angeles County. The Africanized honey bee is closely related to the European honey bee (EHB) used in agriculture for crop pollination and honey production.

SIMILARITIES

AFRICANIZED AND EUROPEAN HONEY BEES:

- Look identical
- Can sting only once
- Have the same venom
- Protect their colony and sting in defense
- Pollinate flowers
- Produce honey and wax

DIFFERENCES

AFRICANIZED HONEY BEES:

- Respond quickly in larger numbers
- Defend a larger area around their hive
- Pursue intruders 1/4 mile or more
- Swarm frequently to establish new colonies
- Nest in small cavities and sheltered areas

RECOGNIZING HONEY BEE ACTIVITY

SIGNS OF A SWARM OR HIVE:

- Straight flight path between a nectar source and the colony site
- Bees flying back and forth from a single location
- Presence of a “swarm cluster” consisting of 3,000 to 50,000 bees
- Buzzing

FORAGING BEES

Foraging bees are generally passive individuals in search of pollen, nectar or water. Neither the AHB nor EHB is likely to sting while foraging but can sting in defense if provoked.



SWARMS

When a colony becomes overcrowded, the queen and up to half of the worker bees leave to establish a new colony. A swarm may temporarily rest until a permanent site for a hive is found. Although swarms are not generally aggressive, caution should be used.



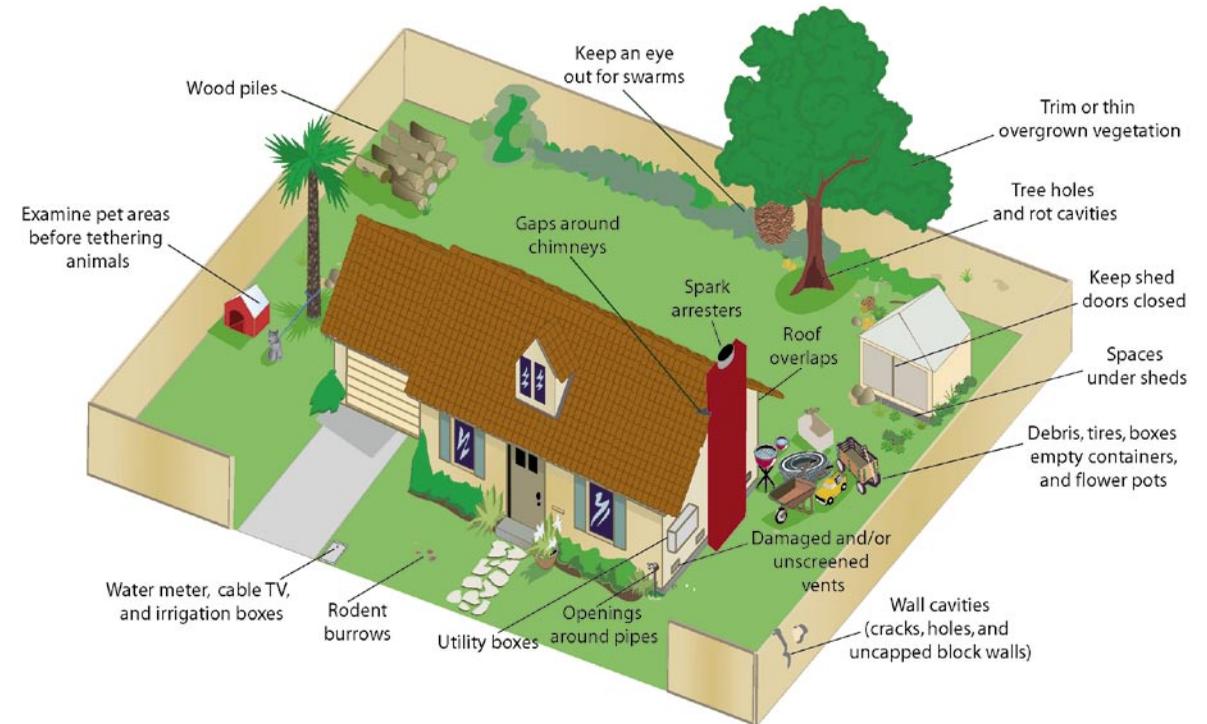
HIVES

As a general rule, stay away from all hives. Bees are more likely to become defensive after they establish their colony.



POTENTIAL AHB NESTING SITES

Check your house and yard monthly for potential AHB colony locations. Remove potential nesting sites and have a professional remove swarms or hives as soon as you become aware of them.



BEE-PROOFING YOUR HOME

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

- Remove possible colony sites around home and yard.
- Check for bees entering or leaving the same area of your home or yard.
- Inspect outside walls and eaves of home and outbuildings.
- Check for openings around storage sheds.
- Seal openings larger than 1/8 inch in walls, around chimneys and plumbing.
- Install fine screens (1/8 inch hardware cloth) over tops of rain spouts, vents, and openings in water meter, cable, and utility boxes.

YARD MAINTENANCE

- Remove and/or thin excessive landscape vegetation.
- Fill and plug all tree and ground holes.
- Remove empty containers, old tires, boxes and trash.