Nuisance vs Emergency

Nuisance calls:

Situations that may be inconvenient to individuals or organizations but are not a threat to life or safety. Often can be resolved by property owners hiring appropriate the professionals.

- Sighting of bees in nonspecific locations (on flowers, flying around)
- Swarm in a tree or structure not immediately impeding foot traffic.
- Colony located on private or public property, has not been disturbed and no stinging events.

Emergency calls:

Situations that pose and immediate threat to personal and community safety. These require quick action.

- Active stinging event, people stung by a large amount of bees.
- Somebody is having an allergic reaction or medical complications from bee sting regardless of quantity.
- Colonies or swarms found in high traffic area or near sensitive populations such as schools, hospitals, or elder and child care facilities.
- Colonies or swarms in/on infrastructure or utilities being repaired.

Additional Resources

List of beekeepers who conduct removals by county

txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/bee-removal/

University of Florida Honey Bee Lab—leading research of Africanized Honey Bees

entnemdept.ufl.edu/honey-bee/beekeeper-resources/african-bees/

Copy of this and other educational materials available on our website

R9HiveAndHoney.com

Interested in having us speak at your event, conference, or training? Contact us for a list available services!

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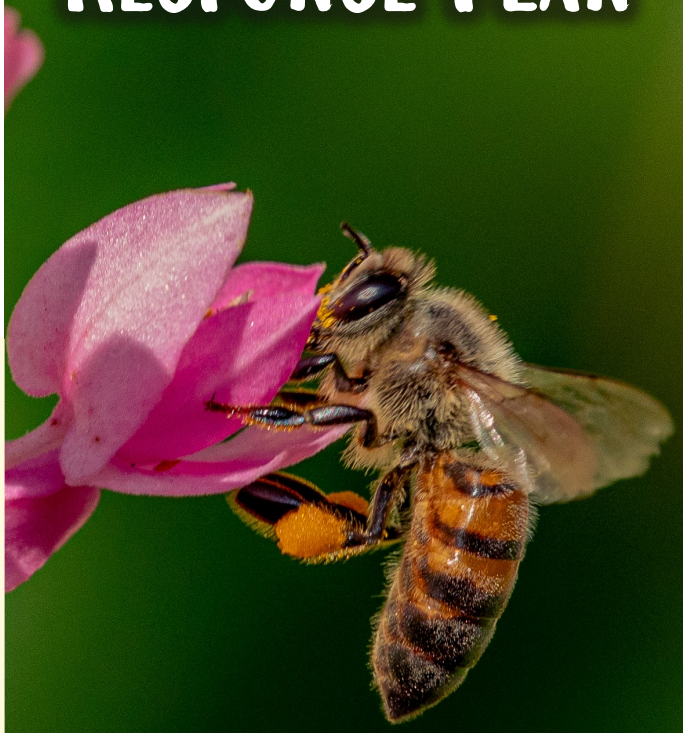
Developing a Bee Emergency Response Plan



R9Hive&Honey

Established 2018

Specializing in live honeybee removals across the Rio Grande Valley

Creating a Response Kit

Personal Protective Equipment—Responders

- 2 full professional beekeeper's suits
- 2 beekeeper's gloves w/ gauntlets
- 1 veil for standard FD helmet per responder
- Tape or Velcro straps to seal pants/sleeves

Personal Protective Equipment—Victims

- 2 pocket veils/bee hats
- Cloth of blanket as temporary body cover

Creating a Training Plan

All personnel should be trained how to quickly don and fully secure a full bee suit including gloves, veil, and shoes.

Practice "bee proofing" current gear.

Create a list of responders who will prioritize the suits. Personnel should be familiar with handling bee attacks and should be tested for honey bee and wasp allergies.

Coordinate with dispatch on types of bee events that require emergency response services.

Develop a plan with local leadership about policy to eradicate bees during an attack vs. mitigate harm by coordinating bee removals with community experts.

Responding to Active Bee Attacks

Every bee incident is unique; plan for flexibility.

1. Bee suits and other PPE should be worn before arriving on scene as bees may defend an area up to 100 feet away from colony. Bees may chase victims over a quarter mile.
2. Reduction of defensive bees in the air through the creation of a wall or umbrella of water with hose.
3. Clear the scene: remove victims and keep bystanders away from area.
4. Follow standard medical intervention for insect stings.
5. Locate the honey bee colony. Determine if they are inside a structure, object, or open air.
6. Determine if colony will be exterminated or removed.
7. Verify scene is now safe.
8. Debrief and continue training.

Extermination vs. Removal

Each method has positive and negative results and the best action depends on each situation.

Extermination:

Performed by emergency responders or pest control operators (PCO).

End result: Bees are killed.

Soak with water (w/o detergent or foam). Kills through drowning and most remain soaked to kill.

PCO use liquid or dusting pesticide. Kills insects through contact and absorption.

Pros: often quick, greater amount of people trained to perform task.

Cons: effectiveness of extermination varies on process and situation, comb not removed can pose future safety hazards.

Live Removal:

Performed by bee removal specialists or beekeepers experienced with handling Africanized honey bees.

End result: Bees are relocated.

Beekeepers gather majority of bees and will remove comb. Experienced removers can quickly remove colony from variety of objects and structures.

Pros: less pesticide use, greatest reduction of reinfestation, beekeepers have specialized education or training for the situation.

Cons: may be a longer process, increases personnel on scene, unpredictable wait time for beekeeper to response, requires pre-planning before an incident.