

The Hive's Beekeeping Safety Guidelines

Working with bees can be a rewarding and fun experience, but there are some risks!
PLEASE READ the following information below before working with the bees.



Rule #1: In the event of an emergency, do not hesitate to call 9-1-1, it could save someone's life.

Rule #2: Know the signs of anaphylaxis and what to do in the case of an emergency.

- The following symptoms may indicate a potentially dangerous reaction to bee stings (anaphylaxis)! Even if you've been stung before, always be looking out for these symptoms.
 - Itching, hives, redness, swelling, tightness in the skin, nose, mouth or throat
 - Difficulty swallowing, shortness of breath, wheezing, or vomiting
 - Weak pulse, dizziness, fainting, or passing out
- How do you know if a person is having an anaphylactic reaction?
 - Anaphylaxis is highly likely if at least one of the following three conditions occurs:
 1. Your symptoms appear within minutes to several hours and involve skin, mucosal tissue (such as tissues lining the respiratory and GI tracts), or both. You also have trouble breathing or have a drop in blood pressure (pale, weak pulse, confusion, loss of consciousness).
 2. You have two or more of the following symptoms that occur within minutes to several hours:
 - a. Hives, itchiness, or redness all over your body and swelling of the lips, tongue, or throat
 - b. Trouble breathing in the upper and/or lower part of your airways
 - c. Drop in blood pressure
 - d. Long-lasting GI symptoms such as abdominal cramps or vomiting
 3. Your blood pressure drops, leading to dizziness or fainting, within minutes to several hours after exposure to a substance to which you know you have an allergy.
- **In the case of an anaphylactic response to a bee sting:**
 - Immediately call 911.
 - Tell the person to inject epinephrine (e.g., EpiPen or Auvi-Q), if they are carrying their personal prescription and help them if requested. Autoinjectors are usually injected on the side of the thigh.
 - Tell the person lie still on their back until help arrives.
 - Loosen tight clothing and cover the person with a blanket. Don't give the person anything to drink.
 - If vomiting or bleeding from the mouth, turn the person on his or her side to prevent choking.
 - If there are no signs of breathing, coughing or movement, begin CPR. Do uninterrupted chest presses — about 100 every minute — until paramedics arrive.
 - Get emergency treatment even if symptoms start to improve. After anaphylaxis, it's possible for symptoms to recur. Monitoring in a hospital for several hours is usually necessary.

Rule #3: Never work with the bees alone.

- When working with the bees make sure you bring another Hive member. This ensures that in the event of an emergency you are not alone.
- If you bring someone who doesn't have experience with the bees, instruct them to stay outside of the fence and tell them what to do in case of an emergency.

Rule #4: Always wear the protective equipment when working with the bees.

- Working with the bees can be dangerous and wearing safety equipment reduces the chances of something bad happening.
- Working with the bees requires wearing protective headgear, gloves, pants, shoes, and long-sleeves. Absolutely no one will be admitted within the fenced in area without the protective equipment. It is cool, safe, makes you look intense, and like you know what you're doing!