

Safety Flash

Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 10/8/2018

The Incident

A GEM boilermaker was loading materials into his truck when a bee stung the back of his neck. Although he had not been allergic to bee stings in the past, he began experiencing symptoms of anaphylactic shock after about 15 minutes. He was monitored at the customer's onsite health center until paramedics arrived and administered a shot of benedryl.

The Causes

- The warehouse is near several open grass fields.
- Bees are generally very active during the autumn months.

Prevent It

- Be aware of insects and avoid provoking them whenever possible.
- Avoid rapid, jerky movements around insect hives or nests.
- Don't use fragrances, scented soaps or body washes, especially those that smell sweet or overly floral.
- Avoid wearing floral-patterned, bright-colored or dark clothing.
- Use insect repellants that contains Deet or Picaridin.

Action Plan

- If you encounter a bee, do not swat at it and stay calm. (Rapid, sudden movements are perceived as threatening and can encourage stinging.)
- Try to stay away from nests and hives - bees will defend their territory.

Keep Improving

Your health and safety are the most important part of every project. We need *your* help to eliminate unsafe behaviors and conditions. If you see a safer and better way to do a task, see your supervisor, or contact GEM Safety: Bill Cornett – 419-720-2728. To get personal protection equipment from the warehouse, call 419-720-2688.