



TRICOR Safety News

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Protecting Yourself from Ticks and Mosquitoes

Inside this issue:

Bees: A workplace hazard	2
Red Cross Ready Rating program helps businesses measure preparedness	3
Employers and Wisconsin's Concealed Carry Law	4
New report on carcinogens may affect employer Hazard Communication programs	5
OSHA launches interactive website to help employers better comply with its record-keeping rule	5



Tom Osterholz

Manager

tosterholz@tricornet.com

Alyssa Moen

Safety Consultant

amoen@tricornet.com

Mary Schoettel, ARM

Safety Consultant

mschoettel@tricornet.com

Outdoor workers may be exposed to vector-borne diseases spread from the bites of infected ticks and mosquitoes. Ticks and mosquitoes may carry bacteria, parasites or viruses.

One of the most common tick-borne diseases in the U.S. is Lyme disease. Ticks are found in wooded areas, high grass, or leaf litter. They are most active during the spring, summer and fall, but in warmer areas may be active all year round.

One of the most common diseases carried by mosquitoes in the U.S. is West Nile virus infection. Mosquitoes may be found near standing water, or in weedy or wooded areas. They are usually most active during dawn and dusk in the warmer months.

Symptoms of Vector-borne Diseases

- Body/muscle aches
- Fever
- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Joint pain
- Rash
- Stiff neck
- Paralysis



Workplace Controls

Decrease tick populations:

- Remove leaf litter.
- Remove, mow, or cut back tall grass and brush.
- Discourage deer activity.

Eliminate standing water to decrease mosquito populations:

- Remove, turn over, cover, or store equipment.
- Remove debris from ditches.
- Fill in areas that collect standing water.
- Place drain holes in containers that collect water and cannot be discarded.

Protect Yourself

- Wear a hat and light-colored clothing (so ticks can be easily spotted), including long-sleeved shirts and long pants tucked into boots or socks.
- Use insect repellents.
 - Use repellents containing 20–50% DEET on exposed skin and clothing.
 - Reapply repellents as needed. (Always follow products labels).

- Use insecticides such as permethrin for greater protection.
 - Permethrin can be used on clothing, but not on skin.
 - One application to pants, socks, and shoes may be effective through several washings.
- Check skin and clothing for ticks daily. Check hair, underarms, and groin.
 - Immediately remove ticks using fine-tipped tweezers.
 - Grasp the tick firmly, as close to your skin as possible.
 - Pull the tick's body away from your skin with a steady motion.
 - Clean the area with soap and water.
- Wash and dry work clothes using the "hot" settings to kill any ticks present.

If you develop symptoms of a vector-borne disease, seek medical attention promptly. Tell your doctor that you work outdoors and report any ticks or mosquito bites.

Bees: A Workplace Hazard

Source: SafetyXChange Author John Riehs

When you think of hazards in an industrial facility, a honeybee isn't exactly the first thing that comes to mind. I always pictured these little insects floating between flowers, foraging nectar for honey production. However, I now have a new and different kind of respect for the bees. Two years ago, two workers within 30 miles of where I live were attacked and killed by bee stings in two separate incidents.

During the summer months, bee stings are one of the most frequent causes of injury listed on municipal worker accident reports. Whether you are a groundskeeper or an electrical linemen you can be attacked while doing your job.

Swarms and Hives

Bees can be found in the workplace in two situations. First, the bees could be in swarm. The swarm is a large colony of bees attached to tree limbs, pipes or just about any outdoor object. We typically notice the less-aggressive swarms in the spring and fall of the year. During this time the bees are looking for a permanent home.

The other situation where bees can be found is when they have established a permanent home



or hive. There can be as many as 60,000 bees in a hive. A hive can be within brush piles, old tires, a hole in a tree or wall or even an empty soda can. Like humans, bees need food, water

and shelter to survive. Providing for and protecting the hive is their highest priority. It is when the hive is threatened that bees are at their most aggressive.

Bee Activity on the Rise

Bee attacks have been increasing lately. One reason for this is that some domestic honeybee colonies have genetically mixed with Africanized Honeybees. Africanized Honeybees, coined "Killer Bees" after a 1970's movie, first appeared in the U.S. in 1990. Originally located in Africa, several queens were captured and brought to Brazil in 1956 to improve honey production. The next year, a few of the bees escaped and bred with local bees. Migrating about 200 miles each year, Africanized Honeybees now stretch along the southern part of the U.S. from California to Florida. Africanized and domestic honeybees look so much alike that only a laboratory can tell them apart.

Some sources claim that in the U.S. as many as 17 people are killed each year by honeybees, both domestic and Africanized. Many of the victims were either allergic to the venom or in a po-

sition where they could not escape the attack. Bees cause death by either a severe allergic reaction from a few stings or from a massive dose of venom of a thousand or more stings.

If You Discover a Bee Colony

When a colony of bees has invaded the worksite, our first impulse is to destroy them. But we should try to do just the opposite. Bees are important to our own survival because they pollinate about 80% of the fruits, nuts and vegetables we eat. The average honeybee produces about 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime. So we should do everything we can not to destroy them.

If the bees are in a swarm, barricade the area and warn employees to stay away. Most swarms leave in a few days once a permanent home has been found.

If a hive is discovered, keep employees away and contact a pro-

Trying to outrun bees is futile. Bees can fly about twenty miles per hour and have been known to chase workers for over a quarter mile. Seek shelter in a vehicle or building.

fessional beekeeper for assistance in removing the hive.

Continued on Page 3

Red Cross Ready Rating™ program helps businesses measure preparedness

The U.S. Small Business Administration and the American Red Cross have joined forces to intensify outreach efforts aimed at educating the public about the importance of having a disaster recovery plan in place. One of their goals is to increase awareness of a free, self-paced, web-based membership program that helps businesses measure their ability to deal with emergencies. The program, known as the Red Cross Ready Rating™ also provides customized feedback on how to improve a businesses' efforts.

“Studies show that between 15 percent to 40 percent of businesses fail following a natural or

man-made disaster,” said Gail McGovern, president and CEO of the American Red Cross. “By partnering with the SBA to get more families and businesses prepared for emergencies, we hope to save both lives and livelihoods.”

The core of the SBA-Red Cross agreement is a plan to work with SBA District Offices and its resource partners such as SCORE, the Small Business Development Centers and the Women's Business Development Centers to promote and, along with local Red Cross chapters, sponsor preparedness training

workshops. With regard to the Red Cross Ready Rating™ program, the agencies plan to disseminate materials on this program and other disaster preparedness tips to the public virtually, and via printed materials.

To access the Red Cross Ready Rating program, click [here](#). For more preparedness tips, individuals and businesses are encouraged to visit www.sba.gov/disasterassistance.



American Red Cross

Continued from Page 2

Protecting Yourself

Your best defense is to spot the bees first and avoid them. Bees become more aggressive when exposed to certain odors, colors and the vibration of chain saws, lawn mowers and other engines.

If bees attack, your only defense is to seek shelter in a vehicle or building. Trying to outrun bees is futile. Bees can fly about 20 miles per hour and have been known to chase workers for over a quarter mile.

If stung, scrape the stinger out as soon as possible; a stinger can continue pumping venom into your system for up to 10 minutes. Wash the sting site and apply ice to reduce swelling.

Contact your doctor if you are stung multiple times or if you begin developing an allergic reaction.

Workers who know they could have a life-threatening allergic reaction to insect venom should ask their physician about carrying a self-injectable epinephrine shot. In this case, always seek further treatment at a medical facility.

Conclusion

If you are located in an area that is known to have been colonized by Africanized bees, it is important to educate employees about the dangers of bees, where they can be located, methods of protection and first aid for bee stings.



Most incidents of eating and driving accidents occur while drivers are on their way to work. If they spill something on their work clothes, they're more likely to try to remove the stain, become distracted, and cause an accident.

Employers and Wisconsin's Concealed Carry Law

Source: *All in a Day's Work* Insights on Labor & Employment Law from Godfrey & Kahn, S.C.

By: Thomas O'Day

Now that Governor Scott Walker has signed the [Personal Protection Act, Senate Bill 93](#), Wisconsin has become the 49th state in the country to have some form of concealed carry legislation. Most aspects of the law will not go into effect until November 1, 2011, so employers have some time to revisit workplace violence policies and evaluate the desire to prohibit or regulate weapons in the workplace and on their premises.

The new law provides that a licensee may not be charged with disorderly conduct for loading, carrying, or going armed with a firearm, so long as there is an absence of criminal or malicious intent. Businesses which allow concealed carry on their property are immune from liability arising from that decision. Those wishing to prohibit concealed carry on their property, however, must post signs meeting specific requirements for notification and lose that immunity.

The new law identifies the nature of the notice businesses must post if they seek to prohibit firearms in their building or on the premises of the business. The sign must:

- Be at least 5 inches by 7 inches.
- State that concealed or open firearms are prohibited in the building or on the premises.
- Specify the area to which the prohibition applies.

Signs must be placed in a prominent place near all of the entrances to the part of the building to which the restriction ap-

plies or near all probable access points to the grounds or land to which the restriction applies, as applicable, where any individual entering the building, grounds, or land can be reasonably expected to see the sign. Businesses should consider the universal “no” symbol of a circle around a picture of a firearm with a slash across the middle of the circle, indicating that firearms are prohibited.

The new law also contains provisions specific to Wisconsin employers vis-a-vis their employees. Employers are provided the option of prohibiting an employee from carrying a concealed weapon in the course of the employee's employment, with one exception. An employer may *not* prohibit an employee, as a condition of employment, from carrying a concealed weapon in the employee's own motor vehicle, even if the employee uses his or her vehicle in the course of employment or if the motor vehicle is on company grounds.

An employer which allows employees to carry concealed weapons, however, is “immune from any liability arising from its decision.” If, for example, an employer were to allow employees to carry concealed firearms into their place of business and an employee accidentally discharged his firearm and injured a patron, the employer would be “immune from any liability” that may arise from that incident.

Wisconsin employers and businesses now face what may be a difficult decision: should the em-

ployer or business prohibit employees or patrons from carrying concealed weapons — and lose the immunity provided by statute — or should the employer or business allow concealed weapons on the premises and therefore obtain the immunity? The question calls for individualized considerations that touch on, among other things: (1) the nature of the service, product or good provided; (2) the nature of the employee workforce or clientele at issue; and (3) the nature of the surrounding community in which the place of business is located. Employers and businesses will have to consider many issues in deciding whether to prohibit employees and patrons from carrying concealed weapons.

Employers and businesses may be able to obtain immunity, however, while still regulating (short of prohibiting) employees or patrons carrying concealed weapons. Only employers or businesses which “prohibit” employees or patrons from carrying concealed weapons forego immunity. Prohibiting something, however, is not akin to regulating something. The power to “prohibit” implies the power to “regulate,” and regulation can fall short of prohibition.

Employers should seek legal advice as they consider whether to prohibit concealed weapons in the workplace, how that decision may impact future liability, and the development of reasonable restrictions on their employees' ability to carry a concealed weapon in the workplace.

New report on carcinogens may affect employer Hazard Communication Programs

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently released the National Toxicology Program's (NTP) [12th Report on Carcinogens](#) (RoC), one of the two cancer lists referenced in OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS). As a result, employers that manufacture, distribute, or use any of the eight chemicals with new or updated listings in the 12th RoC need to determine if the changes have any impact on their existing hazard communications programs. The 12th RoC added two substances--formaldehyde and aristolochic acids--to its list of known human carcinogens, and six substances--captafol, cobalt-tungsten carbide (in powder or hard metal form), certain inhalable glass wool fibers, o-nitrotoluene, riddelliine (a botanical, not be confused with the drug Ritalin) and styrene--to its list of chemicals and biological agents that are reasonably anticipated to be human carcino-

gens. For chemicals like styrene and formaldehyde, which are already listed as carcinogens by the NTP or other organizations, the impact of the listings in the 12th RoC is likely to be minimal because many of the HCS requirements have already been triggered by the previous listings.

Chemicals listed in the RoC are considered carcinogens under OSHA's [Hazard Communication Standard](#). Therefore, manufacturers and importers of a chemical or a product containing a chemical listed in the RoC must list the chemical on Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) if it is present at a concentration of 0.1% or greater when the product has not been tested as a whole, and they must include warning information about cancer in the MSDS. Chemicals listed on the RoC that are present at less than 0.1% must also be listed if they could be released from the product in concentra-

tions that could present a health risk to workers. The MSDS must also indicate that the NTP lists the chemical as a carcinogen.

Employers that use chemicals with new or updated cancer listings in the RoC or products that contain these chemicals should review incoming MSDSs for new information and must train workers about any new chemical or product hazards. Employers must also look at how the chemical or product is used in their workplaces and make sure that the precautions and protective equipment they require are sufficient to protect workers from anticipated exposures. See the [news release](#) for more information about the 12th Report on Carcinogens and OSHA's [Safety and Health Topics Page on Carcinogens](#) to learn more about employer responsibilities to protect workers from exposure to these hazardous substances.

OSHA launches interactive website to help employers better comply with its recordkeeping rule

The [OSHA Recordkeeping Advisor](#) is an interactive tool that simulates an employer's interaction with a Recordkeeping rules expert. The Advisor relies on the users' responses to questions and automatically adapts to the situation presented. Responses put into the program are strictly confidential and the system does not record or store any of the information. The Advisor helps employers determine:

- ✦ Whether an injury or illness (or related event) is work-related
- ✦ Whether an event or exposure at home or on travel is work

-related

- ✦ Whether an exception applies to the injury or illness
 - ✦ Whether a work-related injury or illness needs to be recorded
 - ✦ Which provisions of the regulations apply when recording a work-related injury or illness
- "The Recordkeeping Advisor was developed to better help employers understand and comply with their responsibilities to report and record work-related injuries and illnesses," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr.

David Michaels.

OSHA's [Injury and Illness Recordkeeping](#) page links to the Recordkeeping Advisor and other guidance materials to help employers understand and comply with Federal recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

The OSHA Recordkeeping Advisor is one of a series of *elaws* (Employment Laws Assistance for Workers and Small Businesses) Advisors developed to help employers and workers understand federal employment laws. A full list of Advisors can be found at the [elaws](#) Web site.