

TOOLBOX TALKS

PLANTS & WILDLIFE

Toolbox Talks are designed to promote safety discussions and best practices on the jobsite. To see more Toolbox Talks, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.

Jobsites are often teaming with plants, animals and insects. Knowing how to avoid and treat wildlife-related injuries will make every jobsite safer.

PLANTS & WILDLIFE

INSECT STINGS:

– **AVOID** wearing bright colors, jewelry and floral scents. Move slowly away from stinging insects. Rapid movement may provoke a sting

CARE:

- Scrape stinger/sac from skin with a long fingernail or plastic card
- Wash the site with soap and water, cover and keep it clean
- Apply a cold pack to reduce pain and swelling
- Observe victim for at least 30 minutes for signs of an allergic reaction

TICK BITES:

– **AVOID** by tucking pants into socks and applying repellent to shoes, ankles and legs when in tick habitats. Inspect clothing frequently

CARE:

- Wearing gloves, grasp tick with tweezers and pull slowly
- Do NOT burn the tick off or apply petroleum jelly or nail polish
- Wash the bite with soap and warm water
- Apply antiseptic or triple antibiotic ointment and wash hands thoroughly
- Seek medical care if rash, flu-like symptoms or joint pain appear

SNAKE BITES:

– **AVOID** reaching into enclosed spaces before looking first. If bitten, move away from snake immediately to avoid a second bite. A snake's striking distance is about half the total length of the snake

CARE:

- Carry victim or, if alone, walk very slowly to help – Do NOT allow heart rate to increase
- Wash bite with soap and water and get antivenom from medical facility (must be given within hours)
- Do NOT apply ice, suction or a tourniquet
- Do NOT cut the wound or use electric shock

POISONOUS PLANTS:

– **AVOID** by recognizing and avoiding poison ivy, oak and sumac. Wear long sleeves, pants and gloves when it is not possible to avoid

CARE:

- Mild reactions: clean with soap and water, then apply rubbing alcohol
- Severe* reactions: seek physician-prescribed corticosteroids

* For severe reactions to plants and wildlife, seek immediate medical treatment.

Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants:

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There are a lot of moving parts on the jobsite. To find a safety topic relevant to your operation, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.

