



Safety Tip of the Week

Venomous Spider Safety

Venomous spiders, including Black Widows and Brown Recluses can be found in the United States. These spiders can be dangerous to workers; they are often found inside and outside workplaces.

Spiders are usually not aggressive, and most spider bites occur because the spider becomes trapped or unintentionally touched. It is always important for employees to know how to protect themselves from such dangerous encounters.



Spider Bite Prevention

Workers must take the following preventative steps regarding spider bites:

- Inspect or shake out any clothing, shoes, towels, or equipment before using.
- When handling stacked or undisturbed piles of material, wear protective clothing, such as long-sleeved shirts and long pants, hat, gloves, and boots.
- Minimize the empty spaces between stacked materials.
- Reduce debris around outdoor work areas.
- Trim or eliminate tall grass from around outdoor work areas.
- Store apparel and outdoor equipment, and tightly closed plastic bags.
- Keep tetanus boosters up to date (every 10 years).

Spider Bite First Aid

Workers should take the following steps if bitten by a spider:

- Stay calm and try to identify the type of spider that bit you, if it is possible to do so safely, because identification could aid in the proper medical treatment protocols.
- Wash the bite area with soap and water.
- Apply a cloth dampened with cold water or filled with ice to the bite area to reduce swelling.
- Elevate the bite area, if possible.
- Do not attempt to remove venom.
- Notify your supervisor.
- Immediately seek professional medical attention.

WATCH OUT FOR VENEMOUS SPIDERS...BE AWARE THEY ARE THERE!