

Black Widow Spiders

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Often overlooked, injuries and deaths due to bees, spiders and other insects are a concern that companies should manage as seriously as any other hazard in the workplace.

Fatal on-the-job injuries do occur as a result of bites and stings from insects and spiders.

OSHA Standard 1926.21(b)(4) says that in job site areas where harmful plants or animals are present, employees who may be exposed shall be instructed regarding the potential hazards, and how to avoid injury, and the first aid procedures to be used in the event of injury.

- Black widow spiders are identified by the pattern of red coloration on the underside of their body.
- They can often be found on sites containing undisturbed areas such as woodpiles, under eaves, fences, and other areas where debris has accumulated.
- Bites usually occur when humans come into direct contact with their webs.
- A bite from a black widow can be recognized by the two bite marks it makes in the skin.
- The venom produces pain at the bite area and then can spread to the chest, abdomen, or entire body.
- If you are bitten by a black widow spider:
 - Clean the bite area with soap and water.
 - Apply ice to the bite area to slow absorption of the venom.
 - Seek medical attention immediately!
- Seek immediate medical attention if any insect bite causes severe chest pain, nausea, severe sweating, loss of breath, serious swelling, or slurred speech.



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