



# POLICY MANUAL

## Emergency Operations Policy

### Honey Bee Incidents

Revised: 08-18-03

Code: 1 – 2 – 9

Book Chapter Subject

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9.0 Purpose: Establish Response Guidelines for Honey Bee Incidents.

9.01 Scope: All Emergency Response Personnel.

#### 9.02 **GOAL**

To establish a procedure for Clovis Fire Department Personnel responding to an emergency involving European or Africanized Honey Bees.

#### 9.03 **BACKGROUND**

The Africanized Honey Bee was introduced into the United States through Texas in October of 1990. Since that time it has moved into Southern California and is slowly moving North. The Africanized Honey Bee is extremely aggressive and is easily provoked. The Africanized Honey Bee is no more potent than the common European Honey Bee, but it has a tendency to swarm, thus causing more stings to occur to victims. The Africanized Honey Bee is slightly smaller than the European Honey Bee, but this can only be detected by computer measurements of the wings. Incidents involving bees should be managed as though the Africanized Bee is the attacker.

#### 9.04 **PROCEDURES**

##### **Notification Information**

1. The dispatch center should acquire as much information concerning the incident as possible and relay that information to the responding units.
2. Determine where the victim is located so first responders can stop a safe distance away to evaluate the incident and prepare a plan of action.
3. Risk Analysis. Is there a swarm of bees? How many victims? Are rescue personnel in a safe area? Is there a need to evacuate people from the area?
4. Establish a Command Post, in a safe area, several hundred feet away.
5. Isolate the Area. Establish a Hot Zone and Safe Areas.
6. Evacuate Area.



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#### 9.05 RESCUE PROCEDURES

1. All rescue personnel should be in full structural protective equipment---full turnouts, hood, gloves, and breathing apparatus. The use of duct tape to seal off the wrists and ankle area is recommended.
2. Deploy a 1½" preconnect. Depending on the size of the swarm and the number of personnel, a second preconnect may be used. The addition of a wetting agent (Class A or B foam, AFFF, or dish washing detergent) to the water supply will effectively suffocate the bees. A fog stream should be utilized and directed on and around the victim(s). Then utilizing a wide fog pattern, the hose stream should be directed into the air above the victim. this effort should neutralize the effectiveness of the bees attack.

#### 9.06 EMERGENCY MEDICAL ATTENTION

1. Wash bees from victim.
2. Remove victim to a safe treatment area.
3. Using a plastic card, credit card, or similar utensil, scrape any remaining stingers from the victim's skin.
4. Follow Fresno County Health Department pre-hospital medical treatment protocols.
5. Transport victim(s) to the appropriate hospital facility.

#### 9.07 NOTIFICATIONS

1. Notify the Fresno County Department of Agriculture (559) 456-7510.
2. Notify Fresno County Health Department (559) 445-3387.
3. Specialists:
  - A. Vector/Mosquito Control (559) 896-1085