


# Bee & Wasp Sting Emergency Protocol



Despite the differences between bee and wasp venom, symptoms of their stings are similar and can be treated in the same way. A bee will sting only once, a wasp often stings multiple times. A bee leaves its sting behind, embedded in the skin of the patient.


**Bee and wasp stings may result in anaphylaxis, which is a serious life-threatening condition that must be treated swiftly. Do not hesitate to act!**

**Bees**



When a bee stings, the barb at the end of the sting anchors into the skin of the patient. The venom gland continues to pump venom into the patient. Taking immediate action to remove the sting is of great benefit.

**Wasps**



Each time a wasp stings, venom is injected into the upper layer of the skin. There is no barb at the end of the wasp's sting and the venom gland remains inside the wasp's body. The amount of venom injected can be regulated.

## First Aid Techniques

Although bee and wasp stings do not normally cause serious symptoms, anaphylaxis can be a life-threatening condition that must be treated swiftly.

If the patient has a history of anaphylaxis and carries an Epinephrine auto-injector then ask the patient to administer it on themselves.

- Move the patient away from the area (hive or nest).
- Scrape the bee sting off the skin using a sharp edged object such as a knife or bank card.
- Determine if the patient is allergic to bee stings.
- Administer Epinephrine (Epipen) immediately if appropriate.
- Transport the patient to professional medical assistance.
- Closely monitor for further signs of anaphylaxis.

For assistance contact the Poison Information Helpline on +27(0)21 931-6129.



## Bites In The Night

Bites in the Night is a venomous animal employee engagement program that focuses on the 3 principles of working in areas inhabited by venomous animals. These 3 principles greatly reduce the chances of being bitten or stung by offer a unique understanding of venomous animals. Bites In the Night also promotes your environmental policy, reinforces your emergency protocols and empowers employees to react in a responsible way to venomous animals in the workplace. Presented by Jonathan Leeming.

Email [info@JonathanLeeming.com](mailto:info@JonathanLeeming.com) or visit [www.JonathanLeeming.com](http://www.JonathanLeeming.com)

