Anaphylaxis Emergency Protocol

**Anaphylaxis**

For most people, a bee or wasp sting is nothing more than a short-lived painful experience; for others it’s a life-threatening situation.

During the past 2 decades, there has been an increase of anaphylaxis particularly in industrialised countries. More people are allergic to bee or wasp venoms than to snake, spider or scorpion venom.

Allergic reactions are often built up over time. People who are allergic to bee or wasp venoms should take precautions and be aware of the factors that increase the risk of being stung.

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**Face**

Redness, itchiness, warmth, swelling of the face or tongue.

**Airway**

Coughing, wheezing, tight throat, difficulty breathing, swallowing or speaking.

**Stomach**

Nausea, pain, vomiting or diarrhoea.

**Total Body**

Anxiety, rash, itchiness, swelling, weakness, metallic taste in mouth, paleness, sense of doom, loss of consciousness.

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**First Aid Techniques**

- Do not hesitate to act!
- The first signs of anaphylaxis can be mild, becoming life-threatening very quickly.
- If the patient has a Epinephrine auto-injector, use it at the first signs of an anaphylaxis. Repeat every 5 minutes if the symptoms intensify.
- Transport the patient to professional medical assistance.

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

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**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 offering 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.

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