

The **BUZZ** on Africanized Honey Bees

Africanized Honey Bees are very aggressive

WHAT IS AN AFRICANIZED HONEY BEE?

- > Africanized Honey Bees (AHB) are almost identical in appearance to their relatives, European Honey Bees. European Honey Bees are the most common bees you will see.
- > AHB are highly aggressive. These bees will quickly sting to defend their hive, even when unprovoked.
- > Most bee colonies will only sting a few times as a warning for intruders to stay away, but AHB colonies may sting hundreds of times.
- > Since each honey bee can only sting once, the number of times a person can get stung by a colony typically depends on the size and aggressiveness of the hive.

These bees may chase a victim for over a quarter of a mile

Keep your distance from bee hives

See a swarm? Keep your distance! Ensure pets and children are kept away from the bees.



Getting stung? Run away in a straight line. Cover your eyes and face as much as possible.



Take shelter in a car or building. Don't jump in water; bees will sting you when you surface.



Remove the stingers ASAP by scraping. Pinching the stingers will release more venom.



Wash stings with soap and water. Trouble breathing? Seek medical attention.



Remove bee stingers as quickly as possible by scraping with your fingernails

Apply ice to stings to reduce swelling and pain

Bee-proof your home to keep bee swarms away

OTHER HELPFUL TIPS:

- > Remain calm and still if a single bee is flying around. Bees foraging on flowers are rarely aggressive unless they are antagonized. Swatting at a bee may cause it to sting.
- > If a bee is inside your vehicle, safely bring the car to a stop, and open the windows.
- > Carry an EpiPen with you if you have severe allergic reactions to bee stings.

