



OFFICE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Fire Ant Safety



What are Fire Ants?

Fire ants are aggressive, reddish-brown insects that build dome-shaped mounds, often without visible entrances. They swarm quickly when disturbed and deliver painful stings that can cause serious allergic reactions.

Fire Ant Hazards

- **Multiple stings:** Fire ants bite and sting repeatedly.
- **Allergic reactions:** Some individuals may experience swelling, hives, or anaphylaxis.
- **Disrupted work:** Ant attacks can halt operations and cause injuries.



Safety Precautions

- **Spot and avoid mounds:** Stay alert for ant nests, especially after rain.
- **Wear protective gear:** Long pants, boots, and gloves help reduce exposure.
- **Inspect work areas:** Check before sitting, kneeling, or placing equipment.
- **Use insect repellent:** Apply to shoes and clothing if working in infested zones.
- **Report sightings:** Notify your supervisor if you spot a mound near the work area.

First Aid for Stings

- **Move away immediately:** Fire ants swarm fast—don't stay in the area.
- **Brush ants off:** Use a cloth or gloved hand—don't slap or crush them.
- **Clean the sting site:** Use soap and water, then apply antiseptic.
- **Treat symptoms:** Use antihistamines or hydrocortisone cream for itching.
- **Seek medical help:** If symptoms worsen or signs of allergy appear, call emergency services.

Contact us for more
information:

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Fire Ant Hazards

- Stay vigilant—fire ants are small but dangerous.
- Always inspect your surroundings.
- Know your team's emergency response plan.