



News Release

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Bee swarms increasing with the warmer weather

With the weather warming and flowers blooming, bees have started to become more active in the community. The Queen Creek Fire Department would like to provide some bee safety tips to residents to help avoid any unfortunate encounters.

Bee swarming usually occurs from February through May and in October. With the establishment of Africanized bees in Arizona, bee stings must be taken seriously. Africanized bees will respond more quickly to protect the nest. They will sting in larger numbers and chase an intruder up to quarter of a mile or more. The Queen Creek Fire Department does not typically remove bee swarms unless special circumstances are present such as aggressive, attacking bees that cannot be isolated from the public.

Bee Safety Tips

- Be cautious when dealing with bees. Leave bees alone.
- If you are attacked:
 - Cover your face and your eyes
 - Run immediately into a building or vehicle
 - Do NOT swat at the bees as this will continue to agitate them
 - Do NOT jump into a pool
 - Call 9-1-1 if someone is being attacked
- Regularly inspect your home and yard for signs of bees. Look for openings in trees, eaves, walls, BBQ grills, and water meter boxes as possible nest locations.

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- Do not attempt to move bees, throw objects at the swarm, or squirt with water.
- Typically swarms are transient. They may set up temporary shelter in a tree for a few hours or even days before moving on.
- If the owner/occupant wants to remove bees on a private residence or business, contact a beekeeper or exterminator.
- Stay alert when horseback riding through brush or under low hanging branches where bees might nest.
- Killing non-Africanized swarms only strengthens the Africanized population. Non-aggressive bees are essential in nature.

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