

# SERVICES

If you see a hive that may endanger public safety call Vector Control at 408-918-4770. We can test bees from hives to determine if they are Africanized.

# REMOVAL

The Santa Clara Valley Beekeepers Guild will remove and relocate feral hives. Click on the "Swarms" link at this website for information:

<http://www.beeguild.org/>



Scan here to get our App

# AFRICANIZED HONEY BEES

**AKA Killer Bees**



# KILLER BEES

Africanized honeybees (AHB) became established in southern California in 1994, slowly moving north. They are aggressive and highly defensive. AHB commonly invade unmanaged hives and nests of European honey bees (EHB). In some South American bee attacks, AHBs have killed or seriously injured pets, livestock, and people. Besides aggressive behavior, AHB and EHB look and behave similarly; they both sting only once and use the same amount and type of venom. If left alone, both AHB and EHB will leave you alone.



AHB & EHB look identical

# AFRICANIZED VS EUROPEAN HONEY BEES

| Africanized (AHB)  | European (EHB)   |
|--|--|
| AHBs will chase a person <b>1/4 mile</b>                         | EHB will chase a person <b>100 feet</b>                          |
| AHBs will be agitated for <b>8 or more hours</b> after an attack | EHBs will be agitated for <b>1 or more hours</b> after an attack |
| AHBs swarm more frequently and travel farther                    | EHBs swarm less frequently and travel shorter distances          |
| AHBs are more likely to nest in the ground                       | EHBs prefer more traditional nest areas                          |
| AHBs send multiple hive members out to defend the hive           | EHBs send fewer hive members out to defend the hive              |



**Santa Clara County Vector Control District**

1580 Berger Drive  
San Jose, CA 95112  
408-918-4770  
[www.sccvector.org](http://www.sccvector.org)



## AVOIDING ATTACKS

AHBs are more protective of their nests than EHBs, but both normally attack to protect their hive. Avoid attacks by avoiding bee hives. Loud noises and movement around bee hives can cause bees to attack in defense.

### Avoid:

- Lingering around bee hives
- Agitating bee hives
- Loud noises within 50 feet of the hive
- Movement within 50 feet of the hive
- Operating power equipment



Lawn mowers and large power tools can cause vibrations that can disturb hives.

## KEEPING HOMES BEE FREE

Eliminate nesting sites around the house to keep bees from colonizing near your home.

### Building Maintenance

**Bees can enter and nest inside any small exterior opening so property owners should regularly inspect for potential hive sites**

- Seal any opening larger than 1/8". Areas to target are where pipes enter walls or stucco meets brick or wood.
- Repair or replace damaged vent screens (1/8" size is best) on house foundation or eaves.



Swarm in tree

### Yard Maintenance

**Bees can build hives on any sheltered and protected structure or plant in a yard.**

- Trim overgrown dense shrubs and trees.
- Remove empty containers from the yard like old tires and empty boxes.



Top: Hive on school wall



Bottom: Hive in water meter box

## ATTACK RESPONSE

### IF ATTACKED:

#### 1. LEAVE THE AREA

Run away as fast as possible and do not stop until inside.

#### 2. COVER YOUR FACE

Use clothes to protect eyes and mouth.

#### 3. FIND SHELTER

Go inside places where bees cannot enter like houses or cars.

Don't go into caves or dive into water or places with only one way out. Bees have been known to wait.

### IF STUNG:

- **Remove stinger quickly by scraping with your nail or credit card.** Don't use tweezers or pinch with your fingers to remove the stinger. This may squeeze more venom into you.
- **Seek professional medical care if you see signs of an allergic reaction like severe swelling or problems breathing.**
- **If you have multiple stings or are hypersensitive get medical care without waiting for signs.**