

**TAKE CONTROL**

# Insect or Spider Bites and Stings

This information bulletin was produced to assist in the prevention of workplace injury and disease. By identifying causes, and assessing and controlling risks, employers and workers can take control of their own health and safety in the workplace.

## Areas in the workplace which could indicate there is a risk of such occurrences happening

Some things to look for include:

- unclean workplaces and uncleared rubbish;
- piles of scrap timber, metal and rubbish;
- unsecured insect handling boxes and enclosures (in the case of beehive operations);
- employees working with insects without appropriate personal protective equipment and handling tools;
- procedures not established for early reporting of insect problems;
- lack of regular work place inspections; and
- high numbers of incidents involving insect and spider bites.

## Examples of what can be done to stop such occurrences from happening

Employers should, for example, make sure that:

- employees are aware of the risks of insects and spiders;
- good workplace hygiene is maintained and rubbish is disposed of regularly;
- employees having to move piles of material wear protective equipment;
- insect repellent is available;
- employees handling insects have appropriate personal protective equipment;
- safe work procedures and secure containment systems for insects are developed and used;
- where appropriate, work areas are assessed for infestation of, for example, wasps nests and bee hives, and removed if necessary;
- safe working procedures for staff working alone or in isolated locations are developed; and
- Information about insects commonly found in the NT is obtained and made available to staff.

## To find out more

The [Workplace Health and Safety Act](#) and the [Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#) outline the minimum standards and the process to manage occupational health and safety in your workplace.

Specific regulations to note in respect of this topic are:

Regulation 38            Hazard identification and risk assessment

Regulation 39 Control of Risk

Other useful resources available on this topic are:

St John Ambulance First Aid Guide

NT WorkSafe [A guide to first aid in the workplace](#)

*NT WorkSafe kindly acknowledges WorkCover SA.*

**For further information please contact NT Worksafe on 1800 019 115 or visit [www.worksafe.nt.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au)**