



SAFETY BULLETIN

Swarming Bees

Who needs to read this?

All Curtin University Staff and Students

Background Details

Swarming bees tend to be most active from September to November. However, there is the potential risk of bees swarming at any time outside this period. They are most active during the day and tend to return to their hive at the close of daylight hours from dusk to dark. Approximately 80% of swarms will move on after 1-2 days without any intervention.

Information

When Facilities Management (FM) are made aware of swarming bees in an area, they shall initially monitor their activity for 2-3 days (to ascertain if there is any immediate risk to anyone), to determine if the bees have moved on without any intervention.

If a swarm or hive is in a low tree, FM will barricade the area, erect bunting and signs warning pedestrians and traffic users of bees and monitor the situation for a few days. If the swarm does not move on after 2-3 days, they will then be physically removed (needs to be done after dark). Staff and students should stay well clear of these areas to avoid aggravating the swarm.

If bees are found to be in rooms, there may be a hive within the wall cavity. When this occurs bees usually tend to fly towards switched on light fittings during the day when they exit the wall cavity. If this is the case, FM will determine where the bees may be gaining entering from and will take action to seal up the identified entry points and/or use Insect spray to eliminate the bees.

FM will keep the reporting staff member and/or Health & Safety rep in the area informed of what they are doing and what they find. During the monitoring phase, FM shall check the area for bee activity 2-3 times per day. However, bee sightings outside of these times should be reported immediately to the Service Coordination Centre (SCC) via ext. 2020, who shall send a person out to the area to carry out an assessment what action may be required.



If the bees do not move on, FM or one of their external contractors will physically remove the bees from the area (this can only be done after dark). This may require the use of specialised equipment such as an elevating work platform.

Recommendations

If a staff member sees swarming bees in a tree or bush outside a building or if there are bees entering rooms within a building, they are to contact the Service Coordination Centre (SCC) on ext. 2020 or lodge a service request via the SCC online form: http://properties.curtin.edu.au/services/forms/scc_form.cfm

All urgent requests should be directed to the SCC by calling ext. 2020, particularly if there is a significant risk to a person that maybe highly allergic to bee stings.

If a staff member is highly allergic, immediate consultation with their Executive Manager needs to occur, in order to determine whether they can be temporarily moved to an alternate work area or directed to work from home until the situation has been resolved.

Who do we call with questions?

If you have any queries, please contact Health and Safety on 9266 4900 or email healthandsafety@curtin.edu.au.

References

Link to SCC Online Form: http://properties.curtin.edu.au/services/forms/scc_form.cfm