

Scorpions

Scorpions in Oklahoma can produce a painful sting, but serious life-threatening symptoms are rare.

Swelling is generally limited. A sensation of numbness and tingling may occur in the area of the sting for four to six hours, but usually resolves within 24 hours.



Bees, Wasps and Hornets

Female honey bees have a stinger attached to a poison sac that is left in the wound when the sting occurs.

Wasps and hornets may sting repeatedly. Wasp and hornet stings can easily become infected. Although stings normally cause only a painful wound, serious allergic reactions have occurred in some people. Multiple stings, especially to the head or neck, are more serious and can be life threatening.

For a honey bee sting, remove the stinger from the wound as soon as possible to prevent the injection of any more venom. Then follow with general first aid. Symptoms usually go away within a few hours. If you have difficulty breathing or rapid, severe swelling occurs, call a physician.



General Bite/Sting First Aid

- ... Wash bite/sting area well with soap and water.
- ... Place an ice pack or cold compress on the bite, alternating 15 minutes on, 15 minutes off. Do not place ice directly on the skin or pack in ice. Do not use heat.
- ... Elevate and rest the wounded area to decrease swelling. (Note: Different than snake bite first aid).
- ... If a tetanus vaccination has not been given within the last five to seven years, call your doctor.
- ... Look for signs of severe allergic reaction, such as wheezing, difficulty breathing, or rapid, severe swelling, abdominal cramps, vomiting, dizziness, chest tightness, hoarseness or blue discoloration of lips. If you see these signs of allergic reaction, call 911 or your local emergency number.
- ... Victims especially at risk for problems are children under the age of 3, heart patients, diabetic patients, elderly or debilitated patients and persons with allergies. Multiple stings/bites to the neck and head may be serious. Consult a doctor in these cases.
- ... Watch victim several days for increasing pain, persistent swelling, flu-like symptoms or fever. If these symptoms occur, contact a doctor right away.
- ... Do not touch or handle biting or stinging creatures.

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Oklahoma Bites and Stings

Oklahoma Poison Control Center

Specially trained pharmacists and registered nurses are waiting to answer your call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



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Oklahoma Snakes

The three species of poisonous pit vipers in Oklahoma are the copperhead, cottonmouth (water moccasin) and rattlesnake.

Rattlesnakes in Oklahoma include the Western Massasauga, Timber Rattlesnake, Prairie Rattlesnake, Western Diamondback and Western Pygmy Rattlesnake. Western Diamondback Rattlesnake venom is the most potent.



Lee McGoodwin

Timber Rattlesnake

All pit viper bites may be serious - seek medical attention right away.

- ... Stay calm and keep the victim calm
- ... Remove all tight clothing, shoes or jewelry from bitten hand or leg
- ... Limit victim's physical activity
- ... Keep the bite **AT** the level of the heart
- ... If time permits, wash the wound with soap and water
- ... Go to the hospital right away. **The best treatment for a snakebite is the key to a car that works!** (so you can drive to the nearest hospital).

PLEASE

- ... **DO NOT** waste time trying to catch or kill the snake
- ... **DO NOT** suck on the wound with your mouth
- ... **DO NOT** use electric shock or a stun gun on the wound
- ... **DO NOT** give sedatives or alcohol
- ... **DO NOT** apply a tourniquet
- ... **DO NOT** cut into the wound
- ... **DO NOT** use heat
- ... **DO NOT** pack wound in ice

Brown Recluse Spider (Fiddleback Spider)

The Brown Recluse Spider is usually light brown with thin legs that are longer than its body. It has fine hairs that give it a velvety appearance. The most famous marking is a darker brown violin shape on the topside of the spider's middle section. Unlike other spiders, this spider has three pairs of eyes on its head that look like tiny black dots.

These spiders can live for long periods of time without food or water. They like to hide and can be found in dark, outdoor locations, under rocks and boards, in holes and caves or in dark, dry and undisturbed places like attics, closets, bedding or furniture.

Prevention includes:

- ... Pick up clutter
- ... Shake out and inspect clothing that has been on the floor
- ... Check bed sheets before retiring if the home is heavily infested
- ... Control of spider food supplies, such as crickets and other insects

Signs and Symptoms

- ... The bite may not be noticed and not hurt much at first. Mild to severe pain usually develops after two to eight hours. One or two tiny puncture holes may be seen at the site of the bite, surrounded by a whitish and a reddish halo.
- ... Blisters appear usually within 24 hours. An ulcer may be seen within 48 hours. Pain and itching increases. The bite area also feels hot, swollen, and firm to touch. Within 24 to 48 hours, there may be flu like symptoms, joint pain and rash.
- ... **If you see dark urine within 72 hours after a bite, get medical attention right away. Serious symptoms may occur in children.**
- ... The tissue dies and sloughs away and an open ulcer may form within one to two weeks. Healing may take six months or longer. Plastic surgery may be required. Although rare, serious reactions may cause death.
- ... No antidote is currently available.



Ohio State University

Brown Recluse or Fiddleback Spider (not actual size)

Black Widow Spider

A black widow spider has a jet-black, patent leather appearance and marble shaped body. Markings on the underside of the abdomen are red, yellow or orange and often shaped like an hourglass.

Black widow spiders are shy, trapping spiders that spin webs and wait for prey. They generally attack only when their web is violated. They prefer dry, dimly lit secluded locations for their webs.

They may be seen in undisturbed areas around work sheds, storage sheds, woodpiles, basements, storm shelters or garages.

Signs and Symptoms

- ... The bite may be a sharp, pinprick-like pain. This pain may subside and reappear as a dull, throbbing ache followed by severe muscle pain and cramps.
- ... After about 30 to 120 minutes, the person may experience abdominal pain, restlessness, sweating and headache.
- ... Board-like hardness of abdomen or back is common.
- ... **A bite from a black widow is serious. Seek medical attention immediately.**



OSU Extension - Richard Grantham

Black Widow Spider (not actual size)

The Oklahoma Poison Control Center

1-800-222-1222

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