



Cottonwood Fire Department

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Media Release

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For Immediate Release

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Cottonwood Firefighters responded to a residence in the 1400 block of East Ash Street on Thursday morning (May 7th) for a swarm of bees that had attacked several people with two being transported to the hospital after they ran to a nearby business to escape the bees.

A bee hive had been disturbed by a person using a weed eater on their property and were very active and aggressive to a distance of approximately two blocks surrounding the property.

Cottonwood Firefighters utilized Class A foam (similar to dish soap) to try to control the bees but were unable to reach the hive. People in the area were warned to use caution when outdoors. The removal of the bees has been referred to local bee removal personnel.



Cottonwood residents should be aware that bees are active this time of year and should use caution when outside. Following are some recommendation for dealing with bees.

Bee Prepared!

Check around your house and yard at least once a month to see if there are any signs of bees taking up residence. If you do find a swarm or colony, leave it alone and keep your family and pets away. Look in the Yellow Pages for a local beekeeper or a pest control company to deal with the bees.

To help prevent honey bees from building a colony in your house or yard, fill all cracks and crevices in walls with steel wool and caulk. Remove piles of junk. Honey bees will nest in an old soda can or an overturned flower pot. Fill holes in the ground, and cover the hole in your water valve box.

Bee Alert!

The best safety advice is to avoid an encounter with unfriendly honey bees. Be alert for danger. Remember that honey bees sting to defend their colony, so be on the lookout for honey bee swarms and colonies. Be alert for bees coming in and out of an opening such as a crack in a wall, or the hole in a water meter box. Listen for the hum of an active bee colony. Look for bees in holes in the ground, holes in trees or cacti, and in sheds. Be extra careful when moving junk or debris that has been lying around.

Be alert for bees that are acting strangely. Quite often bees will display some preliminary defensive behavior before going into a full-fledged attack. They may fly at your face or buzz around over your head. These warning

signs should be heeded, since the bees may be telling you that you have come into their area and are too close to their colony for comfort both theirs and yours!

The University of Arizona offers the following information on Arizona Bees at their website:

<http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/insects/ahb/>