

# **MODEL FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**

## **Tactical Plans AFRICANIZED HONEY BEES**

The purpose of this procedure is to outline a process by which Fire companies will approach and manage an Africanized Honey Bee (AHB) attack.

### **DISPATCH**

When the Alarm Room receives a call for AHB attack, two fire department units (one being an ALS unit and one ladder company) and a Battalion Chief should be dispatched. They shall proceed priority 1 to the scene and arrive being careful not to commit themselves in the path of the source of bees — approximately 800' from the colony/victims. Firefighters shall don full protective clothing prior to entering the area or exiting the vehicle.

### **ON-SCENE**

Upon arrival at an (AHB) incident site, a rapid evaluation should be made by the first arriving fire company officer and the following activities implemented:

Determine if there are any victims that will require rescue and/or medical treatment.

Designate a Level II staging area at least 1000 feet away for subsequent arriving fire department units and/or other agencies that are also responding.

Once on the scene, three crew-members shall don a helmet, their turnout coat, gloves, and bunker pants. No SCBA is necessary. Ankles and waist shall be taped tight to prevent bees from crawling up the chest or legs. The firefighters shall don bee veils.

### **APPROACH**

A quick attack 1-1/2" hose line shall be pulled and hooked to the apparatus AFFF foam system. 1-1/2" line shall be pumped at 200 psi at 95 gpm. The hose line shall be pulled by the firefighter at a quick pace towards the affected patient, with a full fog pattern on the nozzle — sweeping the air surrounding the firefighters and patient. The patient should be quickly picked up while at the same time sweeping the surrounding air with the AFFF foam line. The foam shall continue to be sprayed into the air and on the firefighters and patient while the firefighters retreat to a minimum safe distance of approximately 150 feet from the swarm. At this time, it should be reevaluated if the area retreated to is far enough away to begin more definitive treatment of the patient.

## **SECURING THE AREA**

The AFFF will kill the AHB within approximately 60 seconds of contact. The AFFF should be used to kill the swarm after patients have been rescued. The same sweeping motion should be used to approach the bee colony completely flooding the hive with the AFFF hose line. This is an acceptable action to prevent further exposure to multiple bee attacks.

## **RECEIPT AND PROCESSING OF CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE**

Upon receipt of a call for an Africanized Honey Bee (AHB) incident the call taker shall solicit information from the calling party to determine appropriate action.

Information gathered shall include:

- Location of incident.
- Call back number.
- Has anyone been stung or is anyone being stung now and the number of persons involved.
- Is the incident in close proximity (200<sup>1</sup> or less) to a school, day care center or other building with numerous occupants, especially children.
- Name and address of school, day care center, or other building if applicable.
- Specific location of the bees (i.e., in drain pipe in alley; in barbecue pit in back yard; in mail box in front of home).

If the incident is in close proximity to a school, day care center, or other building with numerous occupants, the school principal, day care owner, building manager, etc., shall be contacted and advised to keep all building occupants indoors and to close all external openings until the (AHB) incident is terminated.