

BITES AND STINGS IN ARIZONA

The Arizona desert is home to animals that are unique to the region. Some have the potential to cause harm via a venomous bite or sting. Bites and stings are the second most common exposure managed by the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center with about 1,500 cases reported each year.

Most bites and stings occur during the warmest months of the year. During the summer, critters are most active during the coolest parts of the day; while during the winter, critters are active during the warmest parts of the day.

PREVENTING BITES AND STINGS:

- Leave wild animals alone.
- Keep hands and feet out of tight, unseen spaces.
- Wear shoes when outdoors.
- Use lights outdoors at night.
- Maintain yard to avoid attracting animals to your property.
- Seal any cracks in foundation of your home to prevent insects from entering your home.

CALL THE POISON CENTER FOR:

- Treatment for Poisonings
- Bites and Stings
- Poisonous Plants
- Medicine Questions
- Food Poisoning
- Pesticide Information
- Workplace Exposures
- Hazardous Materials Disposal
- Reactions to Medicines & Chemicals
- Pregnancy/Breastfeeding Exposures
- Poisonings of Animals
- Information on Poison Prevention
- Educational Programs

OUR SERVICES:

- Available 24/7/365
- Completely free & confidential
- Available in several languages

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



1-800-222-1222



AZPOISON.COM



www.facebook.com/AZPDIC



@azpoisoncenter



BITES AND STINGS SAFETY

ARIZONA
Poison and Drug
Information Center



1-800-222-1222



GILA MONSTERS

Gila Monsters are the only venomous lizard found in the United States. They have a black and coral beaded skin pattern and can grow up to two feet in length. Under Arizona law it is illegal to capture, harm or sell these animals. Gila Monsters are shy and slow-moving animals that are not prone to biting unless provoked.

SYMPTOMS OF A BITE:

- Pain and swelling at the bite site
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Weakness
- Faintness
- Low Blood Pressure
- Swelling of the Airways

WHAT TO DO IF BITTEN:

- Remove the lizard using a tool or stick to avoid being bitten again. Place lizard on the ground when trying to remove it to encourage lizard to unlatch.
- Gila Monsters deliver a very firm bite requiring medical care, seek medical attention immediately



BEE STINGS

Most people will experience only local reactions: redness, itching, swelling, and local pain. These symptoms can typically be managed using over-the-counter medications.

Massive envenomations (>50 stings) can be life-threatening. Additionally, for those with an allergy to bees, even one sting can be potentially fatal. In these cases, evaluation at the emergency department is necessary.



BLACK WIDOW

- Round body with red/orange hourglass marking
- Bite feels like a pin prick
- Bite may cause intense pain & cramping in upper body, nausea, vomiting, & headaches



ARIZONA BROWN

- Often confused with the Brown Recluse
- Tan to brown color
- Pain & flu-like symptoms after bite
- Wound site can be slow to heal



BARK SCORPIONS

Bark scorpions are the smallest species of scorpion found in Arizona growing to be about 2 inches in length. These scorpions can be distinguished from other species by their slender tail segments and pincers. Scorpions are often found in dark places, undisturbed areas, or among debris.

SYMPTOMS OF A STING:

- Typical symptoms include pain local to the sting site, minimal swelling, and numbness and tingling that may travel across the body.
- Children are at a higher risk of experiencing severe symptoms including uncontrollable body movements, rapid uncontrolled eye movements and difficulties breathing.

IF STUNG:

- Mild symptoms can be managed with over-the-counter medications. Contact poison control for further treatment advice.
- If a person is experiencing severe symptoms, seek medical attention immediately.