

FIELD SAFETY ADVISORY: AGGRESSIVE FERAL BEE SWARM PROTOCOL

Provided by HoneyBeeAwareness.org • Pro-Honey-Bee & Pro-Public-Safety

CRITICAL ENVIRONMENT WARNING: Feral honey bee colonies containing highly defensive Africanized genetics are established throughout regional fields, brush rows, structures, and utility nodes. Standard European and Africanized bees look identical to the naked eye. Colony behavior is the primary safety hazard. Aggressive swarms respond faster, attack in vastly larger numbers, and pursue targets significantly farther than manageable strains.

1. UNDERSTAND THE THREAT

- **Identical Appearance:** Feral honey bee colonies with Africanized genetics look completely identical to docile European strains. They cannot be distinguished or identified by sight.
- **Hidden Cavities:** They build nests in unexpected, concealed locations ranging in size from a few basketballs to large shipping crates or equipment housings (such as irrigation boxes, water meter tiles, wall voids, and dense brush piles).

2. HIGH-EXPOSURE MECHANICAL TRIGGERS

Feral swarms are intensely aggravated by sudden loud noises, localized motor exhaust, and mechanical structural vibrations. High-exposure commercial operations include:

- **Mowing & Weed Trimming:** High frequency vibration directly adjacent to low hidden nesting areas.
- **Chainsaws & Brush Clearing:** Striking unseen structural cavities in old trees or dense undergrowth piles.
- **Heavy Machinery & Tractors:** Excavation near sub-grade meter boxes, utility trenches, or abandoned tires.

3. THE ENCLOSED VEHICLE ESCAPE RULE

Take Cover: If you seek refuge inside an enclosed vehicle cab or truck and bees manage to follow you inside, execute this specific step:

Specific Ventilation: Lower exactly one window roughly one half-inch (the width of a fat pencil). Trapped bees inside will instinctively fly toward the bright light and escape through the small gap, without allowing the active swarm outside to enter.

4. POST-ATTACK NIGHTTIME RECOVERY ONLY

- **Prohibited Daylight Entry:** Never return to an incident site during daylight hours to retrieve left-behind equipment, tools, keys, or personal items after an attack. An activated colony can remain highly defensive and stay in attack mode for several days.
- **Night Retrieval:** Wait until complete, total darkness to recover items from the area.
- **Red Light Only:** Use a red-tinted light source only. Do not use a white flashlight near the colony area, as bees are highly attracted to white light and will instantly attack it.

5. IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROTOCOL

1. **RUN IMMEDIATELY:** Do not stand and fight or swat at the air. Swatting crushes bees, releasing an alarm pheromone that actively signals the rest of the colony to attack. Move in a straight line away from the site immediately.
2. **PROTECT FACE:** Pull your shirt collar over your head or shield your eyes, nose, and mouth using your hands and arms as you move. Keep your mouth closed. Defensive bees instinctively target dark, moving spots around the face and head respiratory zone.
3. **AVOID WATER:** Do not dive into a swimming pool, pond, or river as an escape strategy. The swarm will wait above the surface of the water, continuing to sting your head and respiratory entry points each time you emerge for air.

**REPORT EVERY INCIDENT: Help move hidden data onto the public ledger.
Log your field submission report immediately at:
HoneyBeeAwareness.org/submit-incident.php**