**FIRST AID**

Let your supervisor or co-workers know that you have been stung.

If you have a severe allergic reaction—obtain medical assistance immediately! Lie down until help arrives.

Remove the stinger as quickly as possible. Use your fingernail to scrape it away in the direction that the stinger and attached venom sac lie; the faster you remove the stinger, the less venom you will receive.

To soothe the area, use a cold compress, calamine lotion, or a paste of baking soda and water. Do not scratch the site of the sting. Anti-itch medications include over-the-counter preparations such as Benadryl, but they can make you drowsy.

Monitor yourself. Get emergency medical help if allergic symptoms develop later.

**RESOURCES**

Safety & Health Tech Tips US Dept of Agriculture.  

UAB Medicine  
http://www.health.uab.edu/17607/

NIOSH Safety & Health Topics  
http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/insects/

McKinley Health Center  
http://www.mckinley.illinois.edu/Handouts/honeybee_insect_stings.html

**WELLESLEY COLLEGE**  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICE

**EHS GUIDANCE**  
WORKING WITH HONEY BEES

Photo: healthline.com

Environmental Health & Safety Office  
Physical Plant Bldg  
Phone 791-283-3882

Campus Police Emergency Line  
781-283-5555  
http://www.wellesley.edu/Safety/ehs.html

Photo: John Severns
What You Need to Know

Prevention

If you are allergic to insect stings or bites, inform your supervisor before working with them. If you have a severe allergy, you should not work with bees and you should carry an epinephrine shot (prescribed by your doctor); be aware of its expiration date.

Honey bees are bothered by dark colors and some scents (e.g., banana). Wear light colored, smooth finished clothing.

Wear appropriate work attire (i.e., long pants and sleeves, closed shoes) to cover as much of your body as possible. Always wear a beekeeping veil. Your supervisor can give you a “bee suit” (i.e., coveralls) that covers you totally. Ticks that transmit Lyme Disease are present on Wellesley Campus; appropriate bee dress will also protect you from ticks.

Bring a “bee sting first aid kit” with you out in the field, just in case.

If you get stung, walk calmly away from the hive until you don’t hear any more bees buzzing. Do not wave your arms or shout as you leave as you will attract more attention from upset bees.

If you want to get tested for your reaction to stings before you work with honey bees, see Health Services website: http://www.wellesley.edu/Health/Services/allergy.html for information on the Allergy and Asthma Center on Rt. 9 in Chestnut Hill and other facilities that can conduct testing for you.

Honey bees have a different venom than other stinging insects (e.g., bumble bees, wasps); this means that your reaction to one kind of insect does not indicate how you will react to stings from other kinds of insects.

Medical Providers & Emergency Care

- Health Services at x 2810. Located in Simpson.
- Newton Wellesley Hospital Emergency Room on Rt. 16 in Newton.
- Campus Police x 5555.