

## A Guide to Wildlife Safety at Work

Wildlife-both animals and insects-can present unique challenges to golf courses and other outside work environments. Many experience occasional visits from local wildlife or insects, especially those near newly developed neighborhoods or areas next to protected parks and wilderness trails. During spring time, these visits may become more frequent as this is the breeding season for many wild animals.

Rats and other pests can carry diseases. Insect stings can have serious consequences. While we understand that wildlife is being pushed from their natural habitat, you should consider these visits a nuisance and treat them accordingly.

The following are tips to minimize risks from these “friendly” visits:

- Don't feed wildlife. The animals come to depend on it.
- Remove any fruit which has fallen to the ground.
- Store trash in covered, heavy-duty containers.
- Keep work areas free from potential shelter such as thick brush and weeds, and enclose the bottoms of porches and decks.
- Eliminate garbage, debris, lumber piles, etc.
- Check fencing and try to eliminate access points to roof tops.
- Change automatic sprinkler settings regularly.
- When confronting bees, wasps or other insects, know your limits. Professional pest removal can be lifesaving.
- If you are bitten or stung at work, report it immediately.

Taking these preventive measures should help in deterring wildlife from visiting your property. Know what to do if an injury involving animals or insects occurs. Please remember that if the three life sustaining elements are available (food, water and shelter), you are likely to encounter some wildlife in your area.

For more information on the laws pertaining to urban wildlife and their protection visit the Department of Fish and Game's website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/>.