There are even microscopic versions that live on us without our even being aware of their presence. They are too short, small, or fragile to penetrate human skin. Some of the really small ones can burrow right into our skin pores or hair follicles and set up house. They can cause blood poisoning.

However, there are many species that are able to inflict painful, dangerous wounds. If not properly treated, the bite or sting may become infected or cause blood poisoning.

**The List of Dangerous Insect and Spider Families:**

- Spiders
- Scorpions
- Centipedes
- Wasps
- Bees
- Mosquitoes
- Flies
- Ants
- Ticks
- Lice
- Bed-Bugs

There are only a few of these biting and stinging types that are lethal. Fatalities only occur when a particularly ornery species (such as Africanized Killer Bees, Army or Fire-Ants, and Wasps) swarm in an attack and inflict thousands of stings or a person has an anaphylactic (allergic) reaction to the venom.

- The real health hazard(s) associated with insect bites (besides Anaphylaxis) is the transfer of bacteria by bloodsucking insects that can cause disease. Some of the bloodsuckers are: Mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, and bed-bugs. Some of the more serious diseases they can transfer are Lyme’s Disease, Malaria, Bubonic Plague, Yellow Fever, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, to name just a few.

**To ward off these types of bugs, a quality repellant is important. If you suspect bed-bugs at home, call an exterminator and get your house sprayed.**

- Out of all the spiders in the United States, only the Black Widow and the Brown Recluse (fiddler spider) are really dangerous, and then only to very young children, the elderly, and those with adverse medical conditions that react with the neurotoxins in the spider’s venom. Healthy humans may experience infection at the wound and unpleasant illness, but a fatal episode is unlikely. The bite should be kept clean and covered. Anti-venom is available for the Black Widow, but as yet, not for the Brown Recluse.

- Bees and Wasps are very territorial and protective of their nests. Africanized bees have been observed guarding their hive for distances up to a mile and a quarter and can remain agitated for several days. Certain hornet (wasp) species are extremely protective and can actually squirt venom into the eyes of an intruder. The average healthy person can tolerate approximately 10 stings per pound of body weight. People who are allergic to stings should always carry a kit with antihistamine tablets and a preloaded syringe of epinephrine which block anaphylactic reaction.

- Fire ants are the only ant species in the United States that are aggressive enough and have colonies large enough to kill a human. At least 30 deaths are attributed to these types of insects, with nearly all of them being very small children.

- Only one species of scorpion in the United States is really dangerous. The Sculptured Centruroid (centruroides exilicauda) is found in the Southwest desert states of California, Arizona and New Mexico. Very young children are susceptible to its sting and anti-venom is available.

**Conclusion:** Unless you are at risk of an allergic reaction, insects and spider bites will usually only subject you to pain and suffering. Infection can be avoided with proper wound-hygiene. The bloodsuckers are a whole different matter and the transfers of disease are a serious concern—use a good bug repellant! By taking the time to learn about the bugs in your area, you can avoid unpleasant encounters.

**Work Site Review**

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: ____________________________________________________________

Personnel Safety Violations: ____________________________________________________________

Material Safety Data Sheets Reviewed: ____________________________________________________________  

(Name of Chemical)

**Employee Signatures:**

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________  _______________________________________  _______________________________________

Foreman/Supervisor’s Signature: ____________________________________________________________

The first aid information provided is intended to be general in nature and is based upon the “best available” guidelines. No results either general or specific are represented or guaranteed. These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.