



## Managing Change - Insects & Animals-

---

Communication workers might encounter dangerous wildlife on job sites. These animals can pose hazards to the health of workers.

To prevent unexpected encounters one must understand the habitat surrounding the job site prior to starting work. If you are working in an unfamiliar environment, it may be useful to check with the local, state, and/or federal wildlife agencies (e.g., the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-<http://www.fws.gov>) for any advisories specific to the area where work is planned.

### ***Insects***

Stings from insects are painful and can be fatal. Individuals prone to severe allergic reactions from stinging insect venom must be sure to keep an emergency insect sting kit (available by prescription from a physician) readily available. To minimize risk:

- Avoid wooded, brushy, and grassy areas when possible.
- Don't use heavily scented soaps and perfumes.
- Don't wear bright colors.
- Use insect repellent if non-chemical methods are ineffective and you spend time in tall grass and woody areas.

### ***Snakes & Spiders***

Most species of snakes and spiders pose little threat to people. However, a few species of each (e.g., rattlesnake, copperhead, water moccasin, brown recluse spider, black widow) are venomous. It is important to understand what venomous species of snakes or spiders may be present in the areas where work is planned and what steps must be taken if someone is bitten (seeking medical help promptly is a must; the “cut the skin and suck the venom out” response portrayed in old Westerns is NOT recommended).

***Check with local, state, and/or federal wildlife agencies to identify which venomous snakes and spiders may be present in the vicinity of the work site.***

Every time the site is visited, it is important to evaluate the presence of wildlife that may pose a threat to workers; conditions sometimes change daily. Contact a Bechtel representative whenever a hazard is identified at the site. Everyone should be aware of the hazards specific to the locations we work, especially those that may be present in or on communication towers and sites.