

Beautiful Eastern Association

of Snowmobile Trails



Safe Operating Procedures

SOP - 6: ANIMALS AND INSECTS

Mosquitoes, black flies, deer flies, horse flies are all examples of biting or stinging insects. The following hazards may occur when working outdoors:

- Animal or insect bites
- Allergic reactions
- Diseases – West Nile, Lyme

Insect Bites

- Wear protective clothing such as a hat or hood, long sleeved shirts, long pants and boots to reduce exposed areas.
- Use insect repellent with a 20% or higher concentration of DEET.
- Look out for bee, wasp and hornet nests and avoid disturbing them. Do not try to destroy, burn, smoke out or displace it. Get a pest removal expert if it must be moved.
- Carry a bee-sting kit or prescription epi-pen if you are allergic. If you have doubts, consult your physician before working outdoors.
- To remove a tick, avoid tearing off its head. The head may have to be removed with tweezers or even surgically. Always make sure the complete insect has been excised.

Bears*

If you encounter a bear on the trail you should:

- If you are two or more, you should stand close together to appear more imposing.
- Make loud noises, such as shouting or clanging things together.
- Try to avoid direct eye contact. Bears seem to find this threatening behavior
- Throw rocks near the bears. Do not try to hurt them!
- Report any bear encounters.
- Do not approach the bear.
- Never try to corner a bear for any reason.
- Do NOT turn and run.
- Lastly stop, drop and cover your neck.
- Most of your vitals are easier to get to from the front so stay on your stomach.

- If the bear persists, and only as a last resort, persist with all your might. Try to grab a stick, knife or whatever you have and fight for your life. Your survival could depend on your fierceness.

* Information paraphrased from Yosemite National Park material, <http://www.3bears.net/yosemite/beare/>