

POLICY: 554.61
TITLE: Stings-Bites-Envenomation

EFFECTIVE: 09/01/2026
REVIEW: 8/2028
SUPERCEDES:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE

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STINGS-BITES-ENVENOMATION

- I. AUTHORITY
Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
- II. PURPOSE
To serve as a patient treatment standard for EMRs, EMTs, AEMTs, and Paramedics within their scope of practice.
- III. PROTOCOL

**Provider Key: F = First Responder/EMR E = EMT O = EMT Local Optional SOP
P = Paramedic A=Advanced EMT D = Base Hospital Physician Order Required**

	F	E	O	A	P	D
SCENE SAFETY	X	X	X	X	X	
ASSESSMENT	X	X	X	X	X	
IDENTIFY CAUSE: if feasible and safe to do so, have animal transported for identification purposes.						
Bee/Wasp sting: remove (scrape away) stinger. Cold packs may be applied to relieve pain. Spider bite/Scorpion sting: remove stinger. Cold packs may be applied to relieve pain. Snake envenomation: avoid movement of the affected extremity, keeping extremity at or below heart level. Consider splinting. DO NOT APPLY ICE. Monitor distal pulses. Circle any swelling and/or discoloration around bite mark(s) with a pen and note time. This measurement can be used as a baseline for determining the progress of swelling.	X	X	X	X	X	
PULSE OXIMETRY: apply and monitor.		X	X	X	X	
CAPNOGRAPHY: apply and monitor.					X	
OXYGEN: if pulse oximetry < 94% or signs of respiratory distress or hypoperfusion.	X	X	X	X	X	
ECG MONITOR: lead placement may be delegated. Treat as indicated.					X	
VASCULAR ACCESS: P - IV/IO, AEMT - IV only, rate as indicated.				X	X	
MIDAZOLAM: if suspected Black Widow Spider bite and muscle spasms, refer to 554.44 PAIN MANAGEMENT as indicated.					X	