

POLICY: 554.61  
 TITLE: Stings-Bites-Envenomation

EFFECTIVE: 02/01/2026  
 REVIEW: 02/2028  
 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, and Paramedics within their scope of practice.
- III. PROTOCOL

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

	F	E	O	P	D
<b>SCENE SAFETY</b>	X	X	X	X	
<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	X	X	X	X	
<b>IDENTIFY CAUSE:</b> if feasible and safe to do so, have animal transported for identification purposes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bee/Wasp sting:</b> remove (scrape away) stinger. Cold packs may be applied to relieve pain.</li> <li>• <b>Spider bite/Scorpion sting:</b> remove stinger. Cold packs may be applied to relieve pain.</li> <li>• <b>Snake envenomation:</b> avoid movement of the affected extremity, keeping extremity at or below heart level. Consider splinting. <b>DO NOT APPLY ICE.</b> 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.</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X	
<b>PULSE OXIMETRY:</b> apply and monitor.		X	X	X	
<b>CAPNOGRAPHY:</b> apply and monitor.				X	
<b>OXYGEN:</b> if pulse oximetry < 94% or signs of respiratory distress or hypoperfusion.	X	X	X	X	
<b>ECG MONITOR:</b> lead placement may be delegated. Treat as indicated.				X	
<b>VASCULAR ACCESS:</b> IV/IO, rate as indicated.				X	
<b>MIDAZOLAM:</b> if suspected Black Widow Spider bite and muscle spasms, refer to 554.44 PAIN MANAGEMENT as indicated.				X	