

Points to note when being stung by fire ants (to the general public)

Symptoms

- 【Light】 A feeling of intense burning and severe pain at the moment of being stung, then itchiness, followed by the formation of pustules.
- 【Medium】 Swollen skin developing from the center of the stung area outward. Some may experience a skin rash with itchiness on part or all of the body.
- 【Severe】 Shortness of breath, slurred speech, severe palpitations and dizziness, even loss of consciousness if developed. If these symptoms are found, you may possibly be suffering from anaphylaxis, a severe allergic reaction, which can be fatal if left untreated.

Treatments: Reactions to the poison of fire ants may vary widely depending on individuals

【Immediately after being stung】

Rest for about 20 to 30 minutes, while paying attention to any changes in body condition.

【Abrupt change in body condition】

Depending on a body disposition, some may experience severe symptoms. If a body condition is changed abruptly, call an ambulance and receive treatment at a medical institution. Tell the doctor that you have been stung by ants or you may suffer from anaphylaxis and get a medical treatment immediately.

※For those who need special attention

The venom of fire ants contains the same substance as the venom of bees. People who have an allergy to the venom of bees need to seek special attention even if they have not been stung by fire ants before.

For more information on fire ants, please refer to the website of the Ministry of the Environment.

<http://www.env.go.jp/nature/dobutsu/fireant.html> (* Available only in Japanese)