

RED IMPORTED FIRE ANTS (RIFA)

Who to Call

- Multiple Stinging Emergencies
Call 911
- Red Imported Fire Ant infestations
Contact the District at (310) 915-7370

Mistaken Identities (Ants)

Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA)

- Known for its aggressive behavior and painful stings
- Stings have been compared to being poked with a hot needle



Length: $\frac{1}{16}$ " - $\frac{1}{8}$ "

Argentine Ant

- Common household pest
- Mild bite



Length: $\frac{1}{8}$ "

Red Harvester Ant

- Painful sting



Length: $\frac{1}{5}$ "

Southern Fire Ant

- Looks similar to RIFA
- Painful sting



Length: $\frac{1}{8}$ " to $\frac{1}{4}$ "

Ant images © Alex Wild

RIFA Nests



- Irregularly shaped with small piles of loose soil peppered with very small holes. The mounds are wider than tall and can be more than 18 inches across.



- Common nesting sites: lawns, gardens, school yards, parks, roadsides, and golf courses, rotten logs, walls, sidewalks, electric and water utility boxes



- Attacks occur when RIFA mounds are disturbed. Because RIFA can sting multiple times, a victim may receive many more stings than there are ants.

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RIFA SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

If you Suspect a Red Imported Fire Ant Infestation

- Avoid the area
- Keep children and pets away from the area
- Do not disturb the ants or mound
- Do not attempt to control the ants yourself



Outdoor Safety

- Dress properly while outdoors; wear gloves and closed-toe shoes with socks
- Dress children properly for outdoor play
- Survey your property for suspected ant mounds
- Inspect outdoor pet areas for RIFA activity. Pet food and water bowls may attract foraging ants.

If Stung



© USDA

- Cleanse the area with soap and water
- Elevate the sting area
- Apply an ice pack and avoid scratching blisters
- Apply a topical ointment containing steroids and/or take an oral antihistamine to relieve the itching
- Seek medical attention if:
 - You experience an allergic reaction
 - Pain or swelling becomes intense
 - Sting area becomes infected