

NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS AT BNL

The Paper Wasp and other stinging insects are common at BNL and can cause a painful sting. Most people stung will experience a "local" reaction with redness, pain, swelling and some itching only at the sting site, which usually goes away within several hours. However, for people who are allergic to the venom of the insect, they may develop mild to life threateningly severe allergic reaction. Avoid areas that bees and wasps frequent e.g., open dustbins, uncovered cold drink cans.



Insects (especially mosquitoes) can carry diseases and transmit them to human via "bites". The diseases that have occurred sporadically on Long Island in recent years are West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and Malaria.

Cover as much of the skin as possible by wearing shirts with long sleeves, long pants and socks whenever possible. Avoid use of perfumes and colognes when working outdoors during peak times when mosquitoes may be active; mosquitoes may be more attracted to individuals wearing perfumes and colognes. Use insect repellents containing DEET. Spray insect repellent on the outside of your clothing, as it is possible for mosquitoes to bite through thin clothing.

During a thunderstorm, cloud-to-ground lightning is a potential killer if a person is in the path of the lightning discharge. Watch for weather signs: clouds and thunder.

- Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain area in a thunderstorm. That's about the distance you can hear thunder. When a storm is 10 miles away, seek shelter.
- When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If it is 30 seconds or less, the thunderstorm is within 6 miles of you and is dangerous. Seek shelter immediately.
- Wait at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder before leaving shelter. Don't be fooled by sunshine or blue sky!

Safe areas include fully enclosed metal vehicles with windows up and substantial and permanent buildings. Unsafe areas include small structures (including huts, rain shelters, canopies, small picnic shelters), metallic objects like fences, gates, instrumentation and electrical equipment, wires, and power poles, trees.

Safety Crouch:

If hopelessly isolated from shelter during close-in lightning, adopt a low crouching position with feet together:

A. **Crouch down.** Put feet together. Place hands over ears to minimize hearing damage from thunder.

B. *Avoid proximity* (minimum of 15 ft.) to other people.

Do not lie down or place your hands on the ground.



Rabies is a viral disease of mammals transmitted through the bite of an animal with rabies (a rabid animal) like a raccoon, skunk, feral cat or bat. Avoid direct contact with unfamiliar animals. Do not handle, feed, or unintentionally attract wild animals with open garbage cans or litter. Contact Plant Engineering at x-4284 for assistance in the capture and removal of animals from buildings.

BNL and Long Island are not home to any snakes that are dangerous to humans. The Eastern Hognose Snake, with rear fangs, is slightly venomous, but harmless to people. Do not pick up or play with any snake. Most serious snakebites occur when someone deliberately provokes a snake. Wear long pants and boots. Avoid areas where snakes may be hiding -- under rocks, logs, etc.



Four tick-borne diseases occur on Long Island. Not all ticks are infected with a disease and not all species of ticks carry all the diseases. The most likely diseases to occur from a tick bite on Long Island are Lyme Disease, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

The best preventative measures are proper dress when in tick infested areas and prompt removal of tick before they can attach and transmit the disease agents. When possible, stay on paved surfaces, bare soil and sand, and large expanses of well-mown grass. Stay away from the edge of fields at the shrub line, avoid entering wooded areas, and avoid walking in high grass near wooded areas. Wear light-colored clothing (for easy tick discovery). Tuck shirt into pants. Wear long pants and socks. Tuck the pant legs into the socks. This makes a barrier that keeps ticks off the skin of the legs. Supplement the clothing protection with the use of repellents.

Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, and Poison Sumac can cause skin irritation and allergic reactions in many people. The reaction in the skin is caused by contact with an oily irritant urushiol found in the plant's stem, roots, branches, leaves, and fruit; on contaminated clothes & tools; and on pets.

Prevent the rash by: Applying a Barrier Cream on exposed skin. Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, shoes and socks. Wear cotton or leather gloves. Decontaminate clothing by laundering in a washing machine with detergent. Clean tools, gloves, etc. Wash infected skin as soon as possible.



POISON IVY
(*Rhus toxicodendron* L.)



POISON OAK
(*Rhus diversiloba*)