

## FIRE ANTS

Imported fire ants, which include the red imported fire ant and the black imported fire ant, can cause medical problems when sterile female worker ants from a colony sting and inject a venom that cause localized sterile blisters, whole body allergic reactions such as anaphylactic shock and occasionally death. Fire ant mounds are found in warm, sunny locations such as landscape beds, lawns, around trees and shrubs, along sidewalk cracks and against buildings. If disturbed, these ants are generally aggressive and can inflict painful stings. They establish elevated colonies or mounds usually the size of a soccer ball often near sidewalks, buildings, or embankments with a southern exposure to the sun. This allows the colonies to take advantage of radiant heat. RIFA (red imported fire ants) are a perennial pest but are more active during warmer periods of the year. Fire ants are invasive pests of growing concern in our state. If you suspect that you have discovered a red imported fire ant infestation, please use caution and contact the Preventive Medicine Department Branch Medical Clinic Sewells Point at 757-953-8806 or 757-953-8810.

If RIFA( red imported fire ants) are identified on your property on base, Preventive Medicine will dispatch an employee to your location to identify the colony.

### Info to know:



Avoid being stung:

- ✓ be aware of fire ants and take care not to stand on ant nest or resources on which they are foraging.
- ✓ Teach children and visitors about fire ants and their hazard.
- ✓ Wear protective clothing during outdoor activities, such as boots and /or tuck pant legs into socks.
- ✓ Control ants where they occur in areas used most frequently by people or pets.
- ✓ User insect repellents on clothing or footwear.