

North London Beekeepers Health and Safety Policy



North London
Beekeepers

HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

North London Beekeepers' Association (NLBA) is a registered charity. The Association has no paid employees and the events and apiary is run totally by volunteers. Whilst all members attending an Association event have a duty of care to prevent harm to themselves and others, the elected management committee of NLBA have agreed the following key principles to minimise the risk of accident or injury.

This policy does not apply to the action of members whilst practising their beekeeping as independent individuals in a range of settings including their own apiaries or selling honey to the public.

Reducing Risk

NLBA is committed to the anticipation, identification and elimination of hazards, in order to reduce the risk of accidents or incidents associated with its activities. This will be achieved through the following actions:

- Education and training programmes focussed on working safely with honeybees for people considering taking up beekeeping and refresher training for more experienced members.
- Demonstrations of best practice provided to all novices and members using the Association Apiary
- Supervision of apiary activities by a suitably qualified and experienced beekeeper
- Risk assessments for the teaching apiary and any events organised for members of the public.
- Compliance with statutory obligations to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.
- Extraction, storage and bottling of honey in compliance with food safety regulations.

Some specific hazards in and around the apiary

- bee stings (swelling to eyes or throat particularly; anaphylaxis)
- manual handling (lifting heavy hive parts/equipment)
- working at height or in unusual situations (collection of swarms)
- working in public places, e.g. when taking swarms
- travel, including transport of live bees,
- working alone in the apiary
- storage, use and disposal of chemicals
- extracting and processing honey ensuring hygiene

- fire (such as when lighting, using or extinguishing a smoker)
- the pond
- safe use and storage of gas bottles (heating water and flaming equipment)

Apiary Induction

All members working in the Association Apiary must attend an induction session. This includes:

- Managing risk through the correct use of personal protection equipment
- Safe handling of bees
- Safe lifting of brood boxes and supers
- Lighting and extinguishing a smoker
- How to safely flame equipment using a gas torch
- First Aid treatment of stings and the local emergency procedures for more serious conditions such as anaphylactic shock

Notices and information

Key information related to the nearest hospital, contacting emergency services and the precise location of the Apiary are on display in the shed.

Members' personal responsibility for their own health

It is expected that a member attending any live bee activity organised by or within NLBA should:

- Follow the NLBA Health and Safety Policy and best practice as directed by the experienced beekeeper in charge. This includes: protective clothing, handling bees and equipment.
- Carry with them any medication for insect stings that have been prescribed to them (including an adrenaline auto-injector) and on arrival inform the organiser exactly where the medication is and who (if anyone) has their permission to administer it.
- Inform the organiser of any other relevant medical condition that might affect them during beekeeping.

Monitoring, reporting and review

Any accidents and relevant health issues at the Association apiaries will be recorded and made known to the Management Committee who will take appropriate action.

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