

Executive Errands® Procedures

Number: GP010

Title: Fire Ants

Effective Date: 22 Jan 18

Revised Date:

Fire ants are an ongoing nuisance here in the desert. Riverside Vector Control will treat them for free or our pest control vendor is also available for a fee.

As part of the weekly absentee home check, landscape should be monitored and one component of that monitoring effort is to be on the lookout for fire ants. Fire ants are present in many States but are most prevalent in southern, very dry climates.

You can tell if a home has fire ants if there is a mound of fluffy worked soil, particularly a few days after a heavy rain. The mound has no opening in the center like most ant mounds. Fire ants build visible soil mounds often in sunny areas. Their mounds can be as large as 7" tall and 24" wide and can be dome-shaped.

Red imported fire ants leave and enter the mound housing the colony through underground tunnels.

Sample red ant hills:



Nearly all red ants are some form of fire ants. Fire ants can be identified by their dull red body coloration, which ranges from reddish brown to reddish black.



On the day fire ants are identified:

1. Call Riverside County Vector Control 760-342-8287. (Put this number in your phone!)
2. Tell them there are fire ants and specify which area of the yard you've seen them (front, back or both yards)
3. Notify the client by email that fire ants were detected and the date for scheduled treatment. If they are not scheduled to be here, let them know the irrigation will be off for at least four (4) days. If they are scheduled to be here, be sure to ask them not to go outside barefoot or in sandals until at least three days after the treatment.

On the day the technician calls to schedule treatment:

4. Once the technician calls you to schedule, notify the landscaper to turn OFF the irrigation 24 hours before treatment, and turn back ON two days later. (The technician will explain this when he calls to schedule.)
5. Put the scheduled visit on our Google Calendar
6. Notify the client by email the date for scheduled treatment. Remind them know the irrigation will be off for four (4) days. If they are scheduled to be here, be sure to remind them not to go outside barefoot or in sandals until at least three days after the treatment.

On the day of the treatment:

7. There is NO CHARGE by Riverside Vector Control for this service. You should plan to be there to sign the authorization form
8. Do not wear flip flops or sandals outside until at least three (3) days after treatment.

Note: Riverside Vector Control will treat a home up to twice for free or our pest control company will treat them for a fee. If Riverside Vector Control is not available or the home is not eligible for free treatment, contact the client for approval to schedule our pest control services.