Bee Alert!
The best safety advice is to avoid an encounter with unfriendly honey bees. Be alert for danger. Remember that honey bee's sting to defend their colony, so be on the lookout for honey bee swarms and colonies.

Be alert for bees. You can never underestimate the danger!
Listen for the hum of an active bee colony. Look for bees in holes in the ground, holes in trees or cacti etc.
Be alert for bees that are acting strangely. Quite often bees will display some preliminary defensive behavior before going into a full-fledged attack. They may fly at your face or buzz around over your head.
These warning signs should be heeded, that you have come into their area and are too close to their colony for comfort both theirs and yours!
When you are outdoors, in a rural area, or wilderness reserve, be aware of your surroundings and keep an eye out for bees the way you would watch out for snakes and other natural dangers. NO LESS!
But don’t panic at the sight of a few bees foraging in the flowers. Bees are generally very docile as they go about their work. Unless you do something really outrageous, they will generally not bother you.

Bee Prepared!
There are a few things you can do to be prepared. One is to wear light-colored clothing. Experience has shown that bees tend to attack dark things. Dark clothing, dark hair, anything dark in color could draw the bees.
Avoid wearing floral or citrus aftershaves or perfumes when hiking. Bees are sensitive to odors, both pleasant and unpleasant. The smell of newly cut grass has been shown to rile honey bees.

Bee Attack!
Obviously, it is best to avoid contact with honey bees. But sometimes contact cannot be avoided. In that case, it is important to know what to do when stung.
Almost all cases of bee attacks can be traced back to some provocation, such as a kid tossing a stone at the hive, or some noise or vibration, once disturbed by something.
Honey bees can range quite far from the source of irritation, attacking anything that looks threatening.
Once the bees get riled up, the most important thing to do is RUN away as fast as possible. Do not try to retrieve belongings nearby.
Do not try to stand still in an attempt to fool the bees. That may work with a snake under certain circumstances, but honey bees won’t be impressed.
Do not try to fight the bees they have the advantage of numbers and the gift of flight.
The more you flail your arms, the madder they will get. Just run as fast as possible.
A bee can obtain speeds of from 12 to 15 miles per hour, but most healthy humans can outrun them.

So, RUN! And when you run Keep Running!
Honey bees have been known to follow people for more than a quarter mile.
Any covering for your body and especially for your head and face will help you escape.
While outdoor enthusiasts can hardly be expected to go around in bee suits, a small hand kerchief or mosquito net device that fits over the head could easily be carried in a pocket.
People who have been attacked say the worst part is having the bees sting your face and eyes.
Any impairment of your vision will also make it more difficult to escape.
So even though a net over your head may leave the rest of your body exposed, it will allow you to see where you are going as you run away from the colony or source of the bees.

If you do not happen to have a net with you, grab a blanket, a coat, a towel, anything that will give you momentary relief while you look for an avenue of escape. But the covering device is not going to protect you for long. The idea is to use it to help you get away.

If you have nothing else, pull your shirt up over your face. The stings you may get on your chest and abdomen are far less serious than those to the facial area.

Try to find shelter as soon as possible. Take refuge in a house, tent or a car with the windows and doors closed. Some bees are bound to enter with you, but it will be darker and probably cooler inside which will confuse the bees and you should be able to swat them easily enough.

Even if you do get stung a few times, remember that each bee can only sting once. As long as the number inside the shelter with you is small, you have the advantage.

Although it may be tempting, **DO NOT JUMP INTO WATER!** The bees will wait for you to come up for air.

Once you are away from the bees, take a second and evaluate the situation. If you have been stung more than 15 times, or if you are having any symptoms other than local pain and swelling, seek medical attention immediately.

Many of the safety measures we have just reviewed would be difficult to apply under the excitement of an emergency situation if you have not mentally prepared yourself ahead of time.

Most people taking part in normal outdoor activities do not have to go to any extraordinary lengths to be prepared, just keep in mind where you would go to escape honey bees, and be on the lookout for danger.

So once Again......

**RUN** away quickly. Do not stop to help others. However, small children and the disabled may need all the assistance you can offer **AND YOU SHOULD.**

As you are running, pull your shirt up over your head to protect your face, but make sure it does not slow your progress.

This will help keep the bees from targeting the sensitive areas around your head and eyes.

Continue to **RUN.** Do not stop running until you reach shelter, such as a vehicle or building. A few bees may follow you indoors. However, if you run to a well-lit area, the bees will tend to become confused and fly to windows. **Do not jump into water!** The bees will wait for you to come up for air. If you are trapped for some reason, cover up with blankets, sleeping bags, clothes, or whatever else is immediately available.

Do not swat at the bees or flail your arms. Bees are attracted to movement and crushed bees emit a smell that will attract more bees.

Once you have reached shelter or have outrun the bees, remove all stingers. When a honey bees stings, it leaves its stinger in the skin.

This kills the honey bee so it can't sting again, but it also means that venom continues to enter into the wound for a short time

**Do not pull stingers out with tweezers or your fingers. This will only squeeze more venom into the wound.**

Instead, scrape the stinger out sideways using your fingernail, the edge of a credit card, a dull knife blade or other straight-edged object.

If you see someone being attacked by bees, encourage them to run away or seek shelter. **Do not attempt to rescue them yourself.**