

Got RIFA?

Red imported fire ants (RIFA) are an **invasive species** in the Coachella Valley causing painful and numerous stings, damage to lawns, and harming the quality of life for residents.



What you should know about RIFA

- They are reddish brown, up to ½ an inch in size, and more aggressive than most ants.
- Mounds are dome shaped and look like piles of sand.
- Mounds are often found at the base of trees and hardscapes.
- RIFA stings may cause severe allergic reactions, mainly in small children, the elderly, and pets.



What to do if stung

- ✓ Wash area with soap and water.
- ✓ Elevate bitten area and apply ice.
- ✓ Keep blisters clean; avoid scratching.
- ✓ Seek medical help if swelling worsens or allergic symptoms develop.



Do you have RIFA?

Contact the District if you think you have red imported fire ants. We will identify the ants and treat RIFA-infested areas.



Learn more about the District or report suspected RIFA mounds at **(760) 342-8287** or **www.cvmosquito.org**