ALARMING BREATH
Your breath can frighten an entire community of ants.

THE SETUP
You don’t have to huff and puff on an ant hill to get the ant’s attention. Breathe gently on a single ant and the smell will terrorize her. In a short period of time she will communicate her extreme panic to the rest of the colony. They will charge to the rescue, searching frantically for the intruder with the unforgettable breath.

INSIDER INFORMATION
The carbon dioxide in human breath is detected by receptors in an ant’s antennae. She perceives this as a threat and responds with a typical ant alarm reaction. This consists of erratic movements and an odor that she makes to alert the rest of the colony. Soldiers come to the strange breath scene and fan out in search of the intruder while other ants run around in panic. The soldiers are fully prepared to give up their lives in defense of their home. However, if no more bad breath attacks are launched in a minute or two, they will sound an “all clear” and everyone will return to normal activities.