RATTLESNAKES

Summer brings snakes out of hibernation. Southern California has a variety of snakes including rattlesnakes. In warm weather, rattlesnakes are active mostly at night. They hide during the hottest parts of the day or when not hunting. Logs, brush piles, rocks or rodent burrows are areas that could hide rattlesnakes. Some precautions to take when working in areas prone to rattlesnakes are:

1. Never go into snake infested areas alone. It is very difficult to administer adequate first aid to yourself.
2. Wear high boots or shin guards in snake country.
3. Keep hands away from obvious areas that could hide rattlesnakes.
4. Use a stick to rustle the bushes ahead of you and to the side to alert rattlesnakes.
   Noise will either cause them to retreat or to rattle their tails to warn you.
5. Use extra caution when climbing or reaching for hand tools.
6. If you see a rattlesnake, **STEER CLEAR!!**

First Aid:

1. Call EMS system for help (911) or transport victim if E.M.S. (Paramedics) are more than 30 minutes away.
2. Contact Supervision.
4. Wash wound and keep bite area still.
5. Keep bite area below the level of the heart.
6. Splint the area if it is on the arm or leg to reduce movement.
7. Carry a victim who must be transported or have them walk slowly.
8. Do not apply cold! (Studies have shown that additional skin damage can occur)
9. Do not give aspirin!