Spiders:

Spider bites are normally no more than a nuisance. However in Southern California at least two types of spider bites can be dangerous.

Black Widows:

1. Black Widows may be found in hollow stumps, brush piles, long grass, hedges, or under rocks or woodpiles. Garages and outbuildings are common habitats.

2. The adult black widow, including the legs, is about one inch or more in diameter.

3. The entire body is usually a hard, shiny black color except for an orange to red hour glass shape on the underside or belly.

4. The victim of a black widow’s bite should be kept warm and quiet. In order to prevent a second infection, a reliable antiseptic should be applied to the wound as soon as possible. An ice pack may be put on the wound to ease the pain and slow the absorption of the poison. The victim should be taken to a doctor that is close at hand. Contrary to popular belief, the black widow’s bite is rarely fatal.
1. Recluse spiders are found all over the United States. In the Southern California area, they are rare. The “Desert Recluse” is the most likely variety that would be found in Southern California.

2. Recluse spiders may be found in hollow stumps, brush piles, long grass, hedges, or under rocks or woodpiles. Garages and outbuildings are common habitats.

3. The Recluse is identified by only having six eyes, arranged in two pairs of three. Other spiders have eight eyes.

4. All Recluse spiders pose a danger and their bites should be attended to as soon as possible. If you are bitten by a recluse, you will develop a large raised red bump with a definite center. Usually it will become infected and the center will widen. See a doctor immediately if these symptoms arise. Antibiotics will stop the infection. If not caught in time, severe tissue damage and scarring can occur.

5. Despite their reclusive habits, they do occasionally bite humans. Recluses typically bite when they are trapped between flesh and another surface, as when a sleeping human rolls over on a prowling spider, or when putting on clothing or shoes containing spiders.

6. Ways to reduce bite risk from recluse spiders include: Keep furniture away from walls; remove items under the furniture. b) Keep clothing off the floor; if it is on the floor, shake it vigorously before dressing. c).

7. Be aware of intermittently used equipment such as gloves and work boots and keep equipment bins and storage areas clean.

8. Be careful when opening monument caps and working in cluttered areas.

9. If one recluse is found, spray the entire area, as they are not lone spiders.