Rattlesnakes

California is the home for several species of rattlesnakes. In Northern California, the Northern Pacific Rattlesnake is the only native venomous species. Rattlesnake bites cause damage by destroying the tissue at the bite and causing blood clotting problems. The Mojave Rattlesnake (Southern California species) bite differs from other California rattlers in that its venom affects the nervous system and can lead to paralysis.

If bitten and you are less than 1-hour from the nearest emergency room, initial treatment is simple:

- Try to calm the victim
- Gently wash the area with soap and water
- Apply a cold, wet cloth over the bite
- Call 911 or Transport to the nearest emergency facility for further treatment

There are several DO NOTs that are very important to remember:

- DO NOT apply a tourniquet
- DO NOT pack the bite area in ice
- DO NOT cut the wound with a knife or razor
- DO NOT use your mouth to suck out the venom
- DO NOT let the victim drink alcohol
- DO NOT apply electric shock

These treatments will NOT help the victim and are dangerous. Applying ice or a tourniquet can block circulation, which can result in gangrene and eventual loss of the limb due to amputation. Cutting the wound can cause excessive bleeding. Because human mouths are full of bacteria, sucking the venom from the wound can cause infection, making treatment more difficult.

All rattlesnake bites require medical attention in an emergency room. A rattlesnake may strike without injecting venom, inflicting what is called a “dry bite.” Even though the victim is not poisoned, the painful bite can still become infected. If venom is injected into the wound, symptoms can include: Swelling, Pain, Bleeding at the site where bitten, nausea, vomiting, sweating, chills, dizziness, weakness, numbness or tingling of the mouth or tongue, and changes in the heart rate and blood pressure. Other symptoms can include excessive salivation, thirst, swollen eyelids, blurred vision, muscle spasms and unconsciousness. Rattlesnake venom also interferes with the ability of the blood to clot properly.

Treatment: Severe symptoms can be life-threatening and must be treated with antivenin and other treatments, as appropriate. Nationwide, there are over 800 cases of rattlesnake bites reported annually. Of those 800, only 1 to 2 cases result in death of the patient.

Safety Precautions:

- Always were appropriate footwear and gloves
- Always stay on paths, when possible. Avoid tall grass, weeds and heavy underbrush where snakes may be residing
- Use sticks to disturb tall grass, weeds and heavy underbrush, when it is necessary to enter area
- Always check for concealed snakes before picking up rocks, sticks or other debris
- Always check cab of parked equipment before operation
- Always check carefully around stumps or logs before sitting
- Always check before putting your hands in a new location. Snakes can climb walls trees and rocks and are frequently found at high altitudes
- Don’t handle fresh killed rattlers. You can still be bitten!
- Never tease a snake from what you believe is a safe distance. Their striking distance may surprise you!

Safety meetings are mandatory every Monday! Completed topics must be turned in to the Shop Office Tuesday Morning!
Rattlesnakes - (Continued from front)

Foreman’s Check List:
- Posting Notices Accessible - Identify Location
- GCC Code of Safe Practices Accessible
- USA Notified/Lines Marked (800) 227-2600
- PG&E Notified/10’ Rule (800) 743-5000
- Required Cal/OSHA Permit(s) obtained
- Emergency Exit Routes/Meeting Location Identified
- Special Hazards Identified
- Fire Extinguishers Charged & Accessible
- First Aid Kit Stocked and Accessible
- Trenching operations & requirements reviewed
- Flagging Operations Reviewed
- Housekeeping/Storage & Handling Requirements Reviewed
- Personal Protective Equipment Reviewed
- Equipment Inspected (faulty/damaged equipment must be tagged and returned to the Santa Rosa Yard)
- MSDS are available for all substances present at the jobsite
- Hazard inspections and corrections are documented

Reminders:
- Work-related injuries MUST be reported immediately
- GCC uses designated medical providers for treatment of work-related injuries
- All accidents and near-miss incidents must be reported
- No employee can enter a trench exceeding 5’ deep unless advised that is is safe by the competent person
- MSDS sheets are available for review - do not work with any product that you are not familiar with
- Do not enter areas where substances are being used by other contractors, unless trained on the proper safety precautions
- Horseplay is not permitted
- Daily jobsite walkthroughs must be performed
- No employee is permitted to perform any task that they have not been trained to perform
- All potential and/or identified hazards must be reported to allow for immediate correction and communication of exposure to other workers
- Discuss parking arrangements for the project

Special Topics for Project (address specific exposures, MSDS reviewed, etc.):

________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Safety Recommendations & Employee Comments:

________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Tailgate Meeting Attended By (employees are required to sign/print name):

Signature includes confirmation of the following:
- In the last week I have not suffered any work-related injury or illness that has not been reported to my Supervisor
- In the last week I have not been denied my authorized 10-minute breaks
- In accordance with Prop 65 requirements, I have been notified that at I may be working in areas, or with products, which contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause Cancer and Birth Defects or Other Reproductive Harm

Su firma incluye la confirmación de lo siguiente:
- En la semana pasada no he sufrido ninguna lesión o enfermedad relacionada con el trabajo que no haya sido reportada a mi Supervisor.
- En la semana pasada no he sido prevenido de tomar mis descansos autorizados de 10 minutos.
- De acuerdo con los requerimientos de la Prop. 65, se me ha notificado que yo pudiera estar trabajando en áreas o con productos que contienen químicos conocidos por el Estado de California como causantes de Cáncer, Defectos de Nacimiento u otro Daño Reproductivo.

Safety Prize Winner: ___________________________