

## **The Office of Emergency Management Offers the Following Water Safety Information**

With the warm weather upon us, it is important to stay vigilant around children and adults alike while enjoying activities involving bathing and swimming at a pool, river, lake or beach. For children younger than five, drowning is a leading cause of injury, or lifelong disability and it is the leading cause of accidental death. As toddlers begin walking and exploring, statistics show an alarming rate of pool and other drowning's. The Office of Emergency Management would like to share the following tips to keep your children safe this summer:



- Keep constant eyes on young children playing in or near any body of water, public pool, spa, or bathtub. A child can drown in the time it takes to answer a text message. Babies and toddlers have drowned in items as seemingly harmless as shallow buckets of water when left briefly unattended.
- Never leave a child alone near water while you answer the telephone or doorbell, attend to another child or turn to household chores, even for a few seconds.
- Fence your pool on all four sides with a barrier that is at least five feet high. Move lawn chairs, tables and other potential climbing aids away from the fence to help keep out children. Any gate or door leading to the pool area should be self-closing and self-latching, opening outward, with the latch placed on the poolside and out of reach.
- Install panic alarms on all house doors and windows leading to the pool area, automatic sliding door closers and an automatic safety cover over the pool.
- Check swimming pools for new anti-entrapment grates on drain suction outlets required by new laws to prevent the physical entrapment of the bathers.
- Keep reaching and throwing aids, such as poles and life preservers, on both sides of the pool
- Swimming lessons do not ensure safety. A child who falls into water unexpectedly may panic and forget his or her swimming skills. Adults who serve as caretakers for children who swim should know how to swim themselves, and also be certified to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in an emergency. Immediate CPR could prevent death or brain damage.

We urge you to remind your families, friends, and neighbors to be aware of drowning risks and to prevent devastating water accidents. Have a safe and happy summer!

***For more information, please call the Office of Emergency Management at 951.413.3800***

## **The Moreno Valley Fire Department Offers the Following Snake Awareness and Safety Tips**



The days are long, temperatures are hot, and many different wild animals are out in search of food. One in particular, is the rattlesnake. Snakes are active animals that are commonly seen in urban areas. Now is the time to raise awareness levels and pay close attention when outdoors during this summer season.

### ***What can I do to keep snakes away from my house?***

Keep grass and vegetation in your yard cut short. Trim shrubs and bushes so you can see the ground under them. Remove piles of debris, including branches, leaves, boards and logs, as these provide hiding and nesting places for many kinds of snakes.

### ***What do I do if I see a snake?***

Walk! Do not run away from the snake. Take two steps backward and watch where the snake goes, then calmly turn around and leave the snake alone, then contact a professional to remove the snake. Do not kill the snake; take a picture, so that a professional can provide you with positive identification.

### ***What should I do if bitten by a snake?***

Call 911 and seek medical attention immediately.

Remain calm, and remove yourself from the area immediately.

If you know the snake is venomous, remove any constricting jewelry, watches, clothing, etc.

Keep the injured limb still as you would a strain or break.

Clean bite area thoroughly (however, do not suck the venom from bite)

Do not apply ice; do not use a tourniquet, and never cut on the fang marks.

Spring and summer is the best time to be outdoors enjoying the season, which is also the best time to be aware of the possible presence of wildlife animals, especially snakes. There have been a recent number of positive snake sightings in Moreno Valley, so the more you know and are aware, the better prepared you will be to deal with an encounter.

## **The City of Moreno Valley Fire Department Offers Information about Fire Resistant Landscaping**

Each year, homes are destroyed by wildfires. If you live in or are planning to move to an area



where homes are intermixed with woodlands, your home may be in jeopardy, and your life and the lives of your family may be at risk.

Fire prone landscaping around homes increases the possibility of fire damage, while also hindering the activities of firefighters.

There are many landscaping techniques that create a semi-fireproof zone or defensible space around homes. A fire safe landscape isn't necessarily the same thing as a well-maintained yard. A fire safe

landscape uses fire resistant plants that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your

home. The good news is, you don't need a lot of money to make your landscape fire safe. And you will find that a fire safe landscape can increase your property value and conserve water while beautifying your home.

### **Choose Fire Resistant Plants and Materials**

Create fire-safe zones with stone walls, patios, swimming pools, decks and roadways. Use rock, mulch, flower beds and gardens as ground cover for bare spaces and as effective firebreaks. There are no "fire-proof" plants. Select high moisture plants that grow close to the ground and have a low sap or resin content. Choose fire retardant plant species that resist ignition such as rockrose, iceplant and aloe. Fire-resistant shrubs include hedging roses, bush honeysuckles, currant, cotoneaster, sumac and shrub apples.



Plant hardwood, maple, poplar and cherry trees that are less flammable than pine, fir and other conifers. Check your local nursery, landscape contractor or county extension service for advice on fire resistant plants that are suited for your environment, and help to plan you landscape.

- See more at: <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/landscaping#sthash.C35VdlxN.dpuf>