



FEBRUARY 2012 HOA NEWSLETTER

Next Board Meeting: The time and place for the next board meeting has not yet been set. We expect it to be some time in March. Watch this space for announcements.

Rules & Regulations and Architectural & Design Guidelines: The board has completed the update of the Rules & Regulations and will be distributing them in the next few months. Thank you to those who gave us their suggestions. We are now starting work on the Architectural & Design Guidelines. The current version (adopted in 2007) of the guidelines are on the HOA web site at <http://www.hiddentrailshoa.com/letters/design.pdf>.

Reed Reservoir Replacement Project Update, December 2011: Hand railing was installed on the outside stairways. A field meeting with reps from the local CA Department of Public Health office was held on 12/7/11. Electrical work continued with pulling and terminating of wire. Stock-piled materials were removed. Work continued on re-grading and installation of drainage system elements.



Please visit the following web links for a running discussion and diagrams for this project:

- <http://www.hiddentrailshoa.com/bulletin.htm>
- <http://www.hiddentrailshoa.com/images/ReedExhibits.pdf>



Rattlesnakes season is approaching (Guidelines for the Escondido Fire Department)

How Can Rattlesnakes Be Identified?

Although rattlesnakes have several distinctive features, many people are not sure how to identify one. Using the snake's color or pattern is NOT a reliable method of identification. Looking for the characteristic rattle on the tail is a good method, but sometimes these rattles are lost.

Rattlesnakes have a powerful body, thin neck and a well defined triangular or arrow-shaped head. Their eyes are hooded and the pupils of the eyes are oval (like a cat) rather than round. **BE SAFE: Do NOT** get close enough to a rattlesnake to see what shape pupils it has unless it is safely captured. Getting that close is a good way to get bitten in the face.

How Are Non-poisonous Snakes Different From Rattlesnakes?

In comparison, non-poisonous snakes have round pupils in their eyes. A non-poisonous snake tends to look more like a snake a child rolls out of clay: the head, neck and body have more-or-less the same diameter. They do not share the distinct skinny neck of the rattlesnake. This is true only of snakes native to California and does not apply to exotic snakes or snakes imported into California from elsewhere.

The Pacific Gopher snake and the common Bull snake have markings that are similar to a rattlesnake. These rattlesnake-like markings are a protective defense against enemies. But neither the Gopher Snake nor the Bull snake has the distinctive skinny neck that a rattler has. Still, many people are fooled into thinking that a Gopher or Bull snake is a rattlesnake. Bull snakes and Gopher snakes can cause a painful bite but they are not dangerous like a rattlesnake.

What Do I Do For Initial First Aid?

Because most Californians live in rattlesnake country, a snakebite emergency plan should be developed before it is needed. If you are less than one hour from the nearest emergency room, initial treatment is relatively simple:

- Try to calm the victim.
- Gently wash the area with soap and water.
- Apply a cold, wet cloth over the bite.
- Call 9-1-1.

What Should NOT Be Done After A Rattlesnake Bite?

Several DON'Ts are very important to remember:

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

The preceding 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.

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Escondido Fire Department (fires, fireworks): 839-5400

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