



TO: Ambulance Service Providers
Fire Departments
Hospitals, Base and Receiving
Training Centers

FROM: Humberto Ochoa, MD *HRO*
Medical Director

RE: Snakebite Treatment and Transport

DATE: May 1, 2013

As people increase their outdoor activities, snakebites will be on the rise. To properly identify whether or not a snake is poisonous, it is important to obtain a good description from the victim or bystanders, if possible. All snakebites should be treated as if they were poisonous unless proven otherwise.

Appropriate treatment for snakebite in Riverside County is to assist in keeping the victim calm and to transport the person to the closest hospital. Specialty center transport is *not* necessary as hospitals in Riverside County all keep an initial supply of antivenom in stock, and several have large supplies in their pharmacies. Symptomatic treatment en route may include an IV, O₂ and respiratory or cardiac assistance as clinically indicated. Specific additional orders can be obtained through base hospital contact.

Additional questions on this matter may be referred to Laura Wallin, RN, EMS Specialist at the EMS Agency office, (951) 358-5029.