

## The Moreno Valley Fire Services Offers the Following Information



With the summer season approaching and temperatures rising, so do the incidences of snake sightings and injuries. Moreno Valley Fire Services would like to share some important safety tips about snakes, particularly rattlesnakes which are common to Southern California.

### ***Snake Facts:***

- Snakes can strike at a distance up to one-half their body length.
- A snake can still bite if its head has been separated from its body.
- A rattlesnake doesn't always provide a "warning" by rattling before striking.
- Snakes will also hide in shoes left outside, so always check shoes or boots before wearing.

### ***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.
- It is recommended to 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?***

- Remain calm, and remove yourself from the area immediately.
- Call 911 and seek medical attention immediately.
- If you know or suspect the snake is venomous, remove any constricting jewelry, watches, clothing, etc.
- Keep the victim and or injured limb still as you would a strain or break.
- Clean the 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.

## **Moreno Valley Fire Services Warns Businesses about Fraudulent Fire Inspectors**

The Moreno Valley Fire Prevention Division is warning local businesses to be watchful for fraudulent fire inspectors. Opportunists are always present, but never so much as when the economy is struggling. Fire Departments throughout the Inland Empire and the State of California have noticed an increase of individuals and fire protection companies posing in official-looking clothing, and performing questionable “inspections.” These fraudulent individuals will disguise themselves as fire department representatives and request to perform a fire protection inspection. After these false inspections, businesses typically receive an invoice for services that are allegedly performed. The invoice is then followed by aggressive collection efforts.



The Moreno Valley Fire Prevention Division inspects businesses on an annual basis. Business owners, managers, and employees should not let anyone inspect their fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems, hood systems, or any other fire protection devices unless they are under annual contracts or reach another agreement for a specific fire protection service prior to the service call.

The Moreno Valley Fire Prevention Division offers local businesses the following items to look for before they consider retaining a vendor to perform any type of fire protection system services:

1. Make sure they introduce themselves, identify their business, and produce a business card.
2. Request to see a copy of a current business license permit from your City of Moreno Valley Business License Office, a contractor’s “C-16” (fire sprinklers and fixed protection systems) or “C-10” (fire alarms) license. Check their license at <http://www.cslb.ca.gov>
3. Be sure the “inspector” states what they are there for and what the estimated costs will be. Never pay in cash. Invoicing and record keeping are important for your business and the establishment of legal avenues.
4. Insist they leave any replaced or changed parts with the business owner. He or she must provide a signed invoice.

Remember that business owners may always refuse service and contact the Moreno Valley Fire Department for guidance. The Fire Prevention Division will gladly advise local businesses of any required service schedules of fire protection systems, and assist in verifying that a company is qualified to provide the appropriate inspection, testing, and maintenance.

## **The City of Moreno Valley Fire Department Offers the Following Information Regarding Hazard Abatement**



Each year, the Moreno Valley Fire Department, CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire, responds to wild fires caused by improper equipment operations. Many times it is the property owner and/or equipment operator who cause these fires. All fires caused by improper equipment operations are costly and operators of said equipment will be held liable for the cost associated with fire suppression. These fires are preventable by following the guidelines on

proper brush clearance and equipment use and safety.



In an effort to reduce the threat of wild fires, the Moreno Valley Fire Prevention Division enforces the abatement of hazardous vacant properties, which pose a danger to the health, safety and welfare of residents and first responders. The primary function of the Fire Hazard Abatement Program is to reduce the risk of fires within the community by pro-actively establishing defensible space and reducing/ removing combustible materials on properties.

Unimproved areas containing hazardous or combustible vegetation, including tumbleweeds need to be abated. Hazard abatement activities are conducted to protect rare and sensitive plants, animals and the environment.