

ANIMAL AND PLANT AWARENESS

Ticks:

Ticks generally are not born with disease agents but rather acquire them from feeding. They then pass the disease on to other animals and mankind during by the same method. When an infection moves from an animal host to a human it is called zoonosis. Lyme disease, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, and tularemia are examples of such diseases. Tweezers work great for removing ticks but it is essential to grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and slowly pull it straight out. For more information see <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7485.html>



Rattlesnakes:

Treatment of a snake bite in the field

- Keep the site of bite below the heart, if possible. This might lessen lymphatic flow of venom.
- Remove all jewelry from bite area, as severe swelling will occur.
- Do not apply a tourniquet or constricting band to an affected limb.
- Immobilize area and keep patient as still as possible.
- Transport patient to hospital as soon as possible.

Rattlesnakes can cause serious injury to people and pets on rare occasions. The California Poison Control Center notes that rattlesnakes account for more than 800 bites each year with one to two deaths. Most bites occur between the months of April and October when snakes and people are most active. About 25% of bites are "dry," meaning no venom was injected, but all bites require medical treatment. —California Fish and Wildlife.

Mountain Lions: What to do if you run into one

Make yourself **appear larger** by picking up your children, leashing pets in, and standing close to other adults. Open your jacket, raise your arms, and wave your arms slowly.

Yell, shout, and make any loud sound to clarify you are not prey. Speak slowly and firmly to discourage predatory behavior.

Maintain eye contact. Never run, bend over, or crouch down. Aggressively wave your raised arms, throw stones or branches, all without turning away.

Assess the situation. Consider whether you may be between the lion and its kittens, or its prey or cache. Back slowly to a spot that gives the lion time and the ability to move away safely, never turning from the animal.

If **attacked, fight back.** Protect your neck and throat. People have utilized rocks, jackets, garden tools, tree branches, walking sticks, fanny packs and even bare hands to turn away mountain lions. For more info. <http://www.mountainlion.org/portalprotectencounters.asp>





Poison Oak:

“Leaves of three, let it be!” “Hairy vine, no friend of mine!” Commonly named Pacific poison oak or western poison oak, it is a woody vine or shrub in the sumac family that can cause itchy red rashes resembling burns with blistering and swelling. Symptoms can take 24-48 hours or even up to a week to show, particularly if it's your first exposure! The plant contains an oily substance called urushiol that immediately forms a chemical bond to the skin, causing an unstoppable allergic reaction. Over-the-counter products, such as Tecnu, can provide a measure of protection but the best way to avoid exposure is to wear clothing and shoes that cover your skin.

Turricula Parryi:

After a wildfire, the dry ridges of Southern California may be invaded by the quaintly named poodledog bush. But all charm ends here, for the sticky and ill-scented poodledog is covered with stiff microscopic hairs that deliver a noxious punch. The chemicals — prenylated phenolics — emitted by the

hairs cause dermatitis and an inflammation similar to that caused by poison oak. The scientific name *Turricula* means “little tower” in reference to the stalk of deep blue flowers that rise over the plant in spring. This stout and densely leaved plant can form thickets growing nearly 10 feet tall and the long linear leaves may be rolled under along their margins.

Marijuana in the forest - A serious safety issue

- If you hike on maintained trails it is very unlikely you will come upon a marijuana grow.
- Gardens are usually situated near a water source
- Be aware of PVC pipe or irrigation hoses, fertilizer, rodent poisoning, plastic containers, canned food, car camping gear, etc.

