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**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 10, 2011

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Spring is here, and the warm weather is beckoning all of us to indulge in outdoor activities. Snakes like the warmer weather, too, and we anticipate our annual increase in the number of snakebites.

Riverside County EMS system does not have a designated specialty center for snakebite treatment because transport to a specialty center is *not* necessary. Immediate treatment of snakebites in Riverside County includes keeping the victim calm, immobilization of the bitten part to minimize circulation of the poison, and rapid transport to the closest paramedic receiving center. All hospitals in Riverside County keep an adequate supply of antivenom on hand for initial treatment, and several maintain large quantities in their pharmacies. Symptomatic treatment en route to the nearest paramedic receiving center may include an IV, O<sub>2</sub>, and supportive treatment. Specific additional orders may be obtained through base hospital contact.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Laura Wallin, EMS Specialist, at the EMS Agency office (951) 358-5029.