

A.R.E.S. Safety Around Wildlife
By: Jeffrey Lamb
Firefighter/EMT
Sacramento County A.R.E.S. AEC

Wildlife is amazing. We love to see animals in their natural environment. Animals in their natural environment under normal conditions will generally avoid humans. However, when natural disasters happen, not normal conditions can cause animals to change from their normal behavior, just as humans do.



Severe Storms



Flooding



Wildfire



Earthquake

These events affect animals too. Animals get scared during these events just as humans do. When an animal gets scared, it's primary goal is to survive and get away. Any person that gets too close to an animal in this condition may be considered a threat by the animal and the animal will defend itself. It does not matter what YOU think and what YOUR intentions were, if the ANIMAL believes you are too close and or are a threat, it will defend itself in whatever way it can.

Even domesticated animals, in a disaster, can feel threatened and defend themselves.



Flooding



Wildfire



House Fire



Earthquake



Flooding



House Fire



Pet Disaster Preparedness Can Save Lives!



Does your pet have a "go kit"?

Natural disasters may cause wild animals to come closer to human living areas for shelter or food.



Wildfire and flooding destroys the homes of animals.



Grizzly Bear



Black Bear



Mountain Lion



Wolf



Coyote

It is sad when wildlife loses their natural homes and land. When they can't live where they would like to, they may be forced to live where you do. They may be scared and feel they need to defend themselves.

Wildfires and warmer weather bring out a danger that A.R.E.S needs to be aware of when deployed out.



Rattlesnakes!! A rattlesnake will generally cause the rattles on it's tail to rattle when it determines it is in potential danger. This is a warning to the wise to pay attention and carefully go somewhere else. The rattlesnake is a venomous snake which uses it's venom to kill it's food, and also to defend itself when it feels threatened. The rattlesnake is a cold blooded reptile and will come out into the warmth to sun itself on spring and summer days. While a rattlesnake MAY rattle to warn that you are getting too close, if the snake does not sense you are there in time it will bite you if you step near or on the snake. A rattlesnake will not always inject venom in a bite. Rattlesnake venom is not always fatal, but it can cause death and at the very least is not going to be pleasant by any stretch of the imagination. Pets can easily become victims of a rattlesnake too. As a rule of thumb, rattlesnakes can, at best, strike a distance of two-thirds their total body length. For example, a three foot long snake may be able to strike a distance of **two feet**. **Always keep a safe distance from any snake. And your pets too!!**

