

Animal Safety – Protection From Dog Bites

More than 61 million dogs in the United States make great pets and enrich our lives tremendously. Unfortunately, any of these dog can bite. Each year, nearly 4.7 million Americans are bitten by dogs – pets and strays alike. As many as 800,000 people, more than half of them children, require medical attention for dog bites annually, and *about a dozen people die each year from dog bite injuries.*

WHO'S AT RISK? Meter readers, road/highway workers, landscape personnel, mail carriers, police officers, firefighters, house painters, plumbers, carpenters, concrete workers, sales personnel – **everyone that works outside in the public eye !!**

There are a few basic safety tips that can be used when dealing with any dog:

- All dogs are faster than you – no matter how fast you are!
- Never approach an unfamiliar dog.
- If approached by an unfamiliar dog, stand still like a tree.
- Never run from a dog and never scream around a dog.
- If you believe a dog is about to attack you, try to place something between yourself and the dog, such as a brief case, hand tool, backpack or bicycle.
- If a dog knocks you over, roll into a ball, cover your face and stay still.
- Don't look an aggressive dog directly in the eyes.
- Don't disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating or caring for puppies.
- Don't pet a dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first.

PREVENTION?

- Harsh Repellant Sprays – pepper spray, OC (mace) and other sprays will work to repel an aggressive dog. However, they may permanently harm or even kill the dog.
- Citronella Spray – These sprays work to “distract” the dogs attention so that you can make a safe escape.
- Dog Stop “Umbrellas” – A simple auto-opening umbrella can shield you from an aggressive dog so that a safe escape can be made.

