Because of the University’s rural and mountainous surroundings, the CIPD receives frequent calls-for-service regarding snakes. These calls typically involve snakes that have entered buildings, yards, or other areas where they are not wanted. Many of these calls have involved rattlesnakes.

The handling of snakes is inherently dangerous, and can result in a poisonous bite causing great bodily injury or death. Capturing snakes is not a primary job function for CI Police Officers. However, it is recognized that there will be situations in which it will be necessary and appropriate for CI Police Officers to capture snakes in the performance of their duties. As such, the following procedures will apply to all calls-for-service regarding snakes:

Upon receipt of a call-for-service regarding a snake on the CI Campus, a CI Police Officer will be immediately dispatched to the scene. The role of the officer will be to assess the situation, stabilize the scene, and address any life safety issues that might be present. If a snake needs to be captured, the dispatcher will first contact Ventura County Animal Services and ask them to respond. After normal working hours, or if the ETA for Animal Services is unreasonable, the dispatcher will contact the Ventura County Fire Department and ask them to respond. In the event of an emergency or other reason that would make it unreasonable to wait for one of these agencies to arrive, a CI Police Officer will take steps to capture the snake, properly utilizing Department-issued snake capturing equipment. Upon the capturing of a snake, the snake will be transported to an alternate location and released into the wild.