



NEWS ADVISORY

Aug. 28, 2010

For immediate release

USE EXTRA CAUTION ON FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IN THE RATTLESNAKE VALLEY

The City of Missoula advises parents of Rattlesnake Valley schoolchildren to give their children who walk and bike to school extra help to ensure their safety during the first two weeks of September.

The Rattlesnake Valley sewer project is in its final weeks. Rattlesnake Drive is closed from just above Lolo Street to Dickinson Street, and traffic is being detoured using Gilbert Avenue and Dickinson. Motor vehicle traffic on Gilbert can be heavy at peak travel times, and the street does not have sidewalks.

The detours are expected to continue until about Sept. 15 and will change with the progress of construction. During this time, extra signs will remind drivers of the 15 miles per hour speed limit.

Side streets in the project area will improve with grading and paving next week. They include Redwood, Linden, Dickinson, Woodland and Sycamore. Watch for construction hazards when walking and bicycling and expect local access only.

Rattlesnake Gardens will remain open. Drivers can access it from Powell Street.

Police will concentrate patrols in the areas of Rattlesnake Elementary and other area schools during the back-to-school period.

The Rattlesnake Neighborhood Sewer Collection System will provide public sanitary sewer to more than 300 homes. The project has been a high priority because of water quality needs, frequent septic system failures and lack of sanitary sewer service. Before the project's start, the central Rattlesnake Valley had more than 300 septic systems still discharging into our aquifer and was the last remaining neighborhood in the City without a sanitary sewer system. The City of Missoula appreciates residents' patience during the construction.

#

Ginny Merriam, Public Information/Communications Officer, 552-6007; 546-7692