

First time in 15 years, they're saying...

Folks at the Minnesota DNR report that a rattlesnake attack near Caledonia last week was the first one against a human in the state since 1996. The main reason they don't happen very often...rattlers have become rare in the upper Mississippi Valley. Iowa State Extension wildlife specialist Rebecca Christoffel also believes the rarity is partly the result of people just wanting to stay away from snakes. The hiker who was bitten is still being treated in La Crosse, a week after the attack. A DNR rep says the guy was lucky to be wearing high-top shoes, so the ankle bite didn't cause much damage.