



WATCH OUT for



SNAKES!

While snakes both fascinate us and cause us fear, here are the facts:

- 10% of US snakes are venomous
- There are 17 types of rattlesnakes in Arizona – ALL are venomous
- About 8,000 venomous bites are reported each year in the US
- About 15 people die each year from venomous snake bites
- BITE VICTIMS MUST BE SEEN AT A MEDICAL FACILITY WITHOUT DELAY

How to identify a rattlesnake:

1. A triangular-shaped head
2. Cat-like pupils
3. Foldable fangs
4. Rattle

IN CASE YOU'RE BITTEN DON'T TRY FIRST AID (This can cause additional injury.)

DO:

- Call 911 and go to the nearest medical facility IMMEDIATELY
- Relax and move as little as possible
- Splint the affected limb if you can
- Remove tight clothing, jewelry, and/or shoes from the bitten limb

DON'T

- Don't use ice or electricity
- Don't use constricting bands or suction – this can increase damage!
- Don't give alcohol or medication
- Don't wait to see if you get symptoms
- Don't try to catch the snake or it may bite again!

**REMEMBER – FOR ANY BITE,
TIME IS MOST IMPORTANT!
Get to the hospital IMMEDIATELY!**

Tips to Prevent Snake Bites

- Leave snakes alone – more than half of people are bitten because of this!
- Be aware of peak movement times – snakes are most active during the warmer months of April – October. In the hottest months, they are more active at night. Otherwise, they are most active during the day – even in cold months
- Watch where you put your hands and feet – keep your hands and feet out of wood piles, deep grass, and crevices in rocks. ALWAYS carry a flashlight and wear shoes or boots when walking after dark.
- DEAD SNAKES CAN BITE – NEVER handle a venomous reptile, even after it's dead. Reflex strikes with venom can occur several hours after death
- Install outdoor lighting – for your yards, porches, and sidewalks. If you see a snake in your yard, it is likely just "passing through." Otherwise, if you are concerned, seek professional assistance to remove it!



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