

Safety Alert

From the LEG HSE Department

Snake Awareness- Springtime brings out snake precautions

Springtime is the most active time of year for snakes when the weather warms up and they move around to hunt. There over 100 different species of snakes in Texas; only 12 are venomous.

Snakes play a very important role in the ecosystem. They are in the middle of the food chain. Snakes are both predator and prey. They are food for birds of prey, coyotes, raccoons, tlacuaches, feral cats, hogs and people. As predators, and depending on their size, snakes eat rodents, worms, insects, fish, frogs, and other snakes.

What happens if you get bit by a venomous snake? Get to a hospital quickly and as calmly as possible.

Tourniquets, a cold press, incisions, or pain related medicines will very likely lead to more damage and loss of the limb. Avoid alcohol.

The best first aid kit for snakebites are car keys and a cellphone. Stay as calm as possible. An accelerated heartrate will cause the venom to circulate through the body faster.

There is no need to identify/capture the snake to bring to the hospital. There is one anti-venom for all US snakes (except TX Coral snakes).



How would you know if you have been envenomated? A venomous bite is extremely painful. The pain has been described as being injected with molten metal. The pain can be instantaneous or slowly increasing within minutes. You can also identify a venomous snake bite because of the two larger holes.

A nonvenomous snake bite will have 2 rows of small punctures. A nonvenomous snake bite can be painful but is not dangerous. The snake will usually just strike and let go as a warning. Simply clean the wound. Notify your supervisor, because **it is still a good idea to get to a hospital even though it may be a dry bite.**

VENOMOUS SNAKES



Diamondback



Copperhead



Cottonmouth

The majority of bites result from people taking unnecessary or foolish risks with venomous snakes. Remain calm and do not panic. Stay at least 5 feet from the snake. Make sure to give it plenty of space. Do not throw anything at the snake, like rocks or sticks. Rattlesnakes may respond to this by moving toward the person doing the throwing, rather than away from them.

Understanding what snakes look for in suitable habitat can help you know when to be wary. Areas where small animals traffic, attract snakes. Snakes like tall grass/brush, and live around warm rocky wooded areas where they make burrows.