



ARIZONA SNAKES: Educate, Not Eradicate

Snake Removal Hotline: 602.550.1090



ALL Arizona residents live in rattlesnake country. A snakebite emergency plan should be developed in every household **before** it is needed. Initial treatment is relatively simple but **PREVENTION** works best.

Phoenixherp.com

PREVENT A BITE

- NEVER go barefoot or wear sandals when hiking
- ALWAYS stay on the marked paths and trails
- NEVER reach for rocks/boulders when hiking without looking first. You don't know what is hiding behind or near them
- NEVER tease or harass a snake to see how far it can strike or what it will do
- NEVER put your hands or feet where you cannot see them
- AVOID tall grass, weeds and underbrush
- ALWAYS flip pool toys or other outside materials over with a broom or stick before picking up with your hands
- DO NOT handle dead snakes
- DO NOT keep rattlesnakes as pets
- Teach children to respect snakes and leave them alone
- NEVER go outside at night without a flashlight (including children)
- Teach children NOT to reach for toys that have rolled under a bush and what to do if they see or hear a snake
- If you hear or see a snake, stop and take TWO BIG STEPS in the opposite direction
- NEVER wear earphones while hiking - listening to your playlist is not as important as listening for snake warnings

TREAT BITE VICTIM

Do:

- ALWAYS CALL 911 FIRST
- Keep victim calm
- Gently wash the affected area with soap and water if possible
- Remove restricting clothing and jewelry from affected extremity immediately
- Apply a cool, wet compress over the bite
- Depending on your location, transport victim to nearest emergency facility for immediate treatment or wait for an ambulance if necessary.

Don't:

- Do Not use ice to cool bite
- Do Not cut open the wound and "suck" out the venom
- Do Not use a tourniquet - this will cut off the blood flow and the limb will be compromised
- Do Not drink alcohol
- Do Not use electric shock
- If you are alone DO NOT drive - wait for ambulance
- Do Not cut the bite - this only causes additional tissue damage

American Association of
Poison Control Centers
1-800-222-1222

ALWAYS GIVE SNAKES THE RIGHT-OF-WAY



GOPHER SNAKE
(AKA Bull Snake)
Most commonly
mistaken for rattlesnake



**WESTERN
DIAMONDBACK
RATTLESNAKE**

