

Rattlesnake Safety



Rattlesnake Facts:

- Only 1 venomous snake species on base - the Southern Pacific Rattlesnake.
- Rattlesnakes try to avoid contact with people - give them space and they will likely retreat.
- Where can they be found?
Debris piles, wood piles, rock clusters, along the edges of buildings, trails, tall brush, laying out on concrete, pavement and roadsides.

Prevention Tips:

- Be aware of your surroundings when outdoors. Do not step or place hands in areas that you can not see, and use tools when moving rocks and debris.
- Stick to well-used trails. Avoid walking and hiking in tall grass, weeds and heavy underbrush. Step on logs and rocks, never over them.
- Keep house exterior and yard clear of debris piles where snakes could hide.
- Wear sturdy boots and loose-fitting long pants during outdoor activities.
- Close doors securely behind you at home and at work.

How to Identify a Rattlesnake:

There are key things to look for when trying to identify a rattlesnake from more commonly found non-venomous snakes.

1 EYE SHAPE

Rattlesnake eyes have vertical cat-like pupils instead of round pupils.

2 HEAD SHAPE

Rattlesnake have a wider, triangular shaped head in relation to their neck size.

3 BODY SIZE

Rattlesnakes tend to have a wider, thicker main body, while other snakes have a more even width throughout.

4 THE TAIL

Rattlesnakes have a segmented rattle at the end of a blocky tail which makes noise when vibrated instead of tails that gradually taper to a point. In rare cases a rattlesnake can be found without a rattle.



Rattlesnake Bites -

Bite victims should call an ambulance or have someone drive them to the nearest Emergency Room for treatment. If you receive hospital treatment within 3 hours of a bite, successful treatment is highly likely.

DO - remain calm and avoid physical exertion
DO - loosen any restrictive jewelry/clothing
DO - get to the nearest emergency room

DO NOT - make incisions over the wound
DO NOT - constrict the flow of blood
DO NOT - try to extract the venom
DO NOT - try to catch or kill the snake

**For rattlesnake
removal call:**

**30 SFS Fish & Game 606-6804 or LE Desk 606-3911
30 CES Natural Resources 606-4198 or 605-8399**