

**California Red-sided Gartersnake**  
(*Thamnophis sirtalis infernalis*)

Robert Fisher



**Long-nosed Snake**  
(*Rhinocheilus lecontei*)

J.D. Willson



**California Legless Lizard**  
(*Anniella pulchra*)

Ivan Parr



**Below are some common sense rules that can prevent most snake bites:**

- If a snake is encountered, leave it alone and move away.
- Always wear hiking boots when walking in areas where you cannot clearly see where you are placing your feet.
- Always stay on paths. Avoid walking in tall grass, weeds, and heavy underbrush where snakes may be present.
- Always look for concealed snakes before picking up rocks, sticks, or firewood.
- Baby rattlesnakes are venomous and can bite. Leave them alone.
- Never handle freshly killed snakes.
- Seek medical attention immediately if you are bitten by any venomous or unknown snake.

—Do not attempt to draw out the venom

—Do not apply a tourniquet

—Take a photo of the snake if possible

**Note: The Vandenberg Medical Clinic does NOT maintain a supply of rattlesnake antivenin**



This pamphlet was produced by the Department of Defense Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Network



**Snakes of Vandenberg Air Force Base**

Emily Taylor



**Southern Pacific Rattlesnake**

Tony Iwane



**Western Yellow-bellied Racer**

The purpose of this pamphlet is to familiarize Air Force personnel about the ten species of snakes and one species of legless lizard confirmed present on Vandenberg Air Force Base. The vast majority of snakes found on the installation are nonvenomous and harmless. The Southern Pacific Rattlesnake is the only venomous snake found on Vandenberg. Snakes play an important role in our ecosystem serving as both predators and prey to other species. Please do not kill snakes, particularly when they are encountered away from dwellings or work spaces.

**VENOMOUS**

**Southern Pacific Rattlesnake**  
(*Crotalus oreganus*)



Matt Cage



The Southern Pacific Rattlesnake is the only snake species on Vandenberg with a rattle.



**NONVENOMOUS**

**Western Yellow-bellied Racer**  
(*Coluber constrictor mormon*)



Tim Burr

**California Striped Racer**  
(*Coluber lateralis lateralis*)



Ivan Parr

**Monterey Ring-necked Snake**  
(*Diadophis punctatus vandenburghii*)



Ivan Parr

**California Kingsnake**  
(*Lampropeltis californiae*)



Tim Burr

**San Diego Gophersnake**  
(*Pituophis catenifer annectens*)



Tim Burr

**Coast Gartersnake**  
(*Thamnophis elegans terrestris*)



Doug Burkett

**Two-striped Gartersnake**  
(*Thamnophis hammondi*)



Robert Lovich