

Fast Facts

Snake Bites

- Most snakes in the US are not venomous (not dangerous to humans)
 - Snakes do not bite unless they feel cornered or threatened
 - Often occur on the arms or legs
- Venom has a combination of substances and four main categories are cytotoxins (cause local tissue damage), hemotoxins (cause internal bleeding), neurotoxins (affect the nervous system) and cardiotoxins (directly affect the heart)
 - Not all bites lead to envenomation (inject of the venom into the victim)
- Four most common types of venomous snakes in the US are rattlesnakes, water moccasins (cotton mouths), copperheads and coral snakes
- Snakes are cold-blooded, so most active when the temperature is between 77-90°F (found in tropical regions, especially in agricultural areas)
- Very few deaths occur in the US due to the access to medical care and antivenom

<i>Symptoms</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Prevention</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Occur within 15-30 minutes -Severe burning pain at site -Bleeding from wound -Blurred vision -Breathing difficulty -Convulsions -Diarrhea -Dizziness -Excessive sweating -Fainting -Fever -Increased thirst -Loss of muscle coordination -Nausea/vomiting -Numbness/tingling -Rapid/weak pulse -Skin discoloration -Swelling at site/affected limb -Weakness -Tissue death -Eyelid drooping -Low blood pressure -Paralysis -Shock -Headache -Mouthwatering -Stomach pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Get medical attention immediately -Remain calm -Restrict movement -Keep affected area at or below the level of heart -Remove any rings, jewelry or tight clothing -Remember what snake looked like, especially its coloring Do <i>NOT</i> do any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Apply a tourniquet -Apply a cold compress -Get over-exerted -Cut the bite with a knife/razor -Try to suck out the venom by mouth -Take any stimulants (alcohol or caffeine) or pain medicines -Eat anything -Raise affected area above the level of heart -Try to capture the snake (even if dead, they can inject venom for several hours after due to a reflex) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Avoid areas where snakes like to hide, like under rocks or logs -Don't play with a snake, pick it up or provoke it in any way -Do not walk barefoot in areas where snakes are -If hiking, wear long pants and boots -Use a walking stick to tap ahead of you or in places where you need to place your foot, but can't see

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