

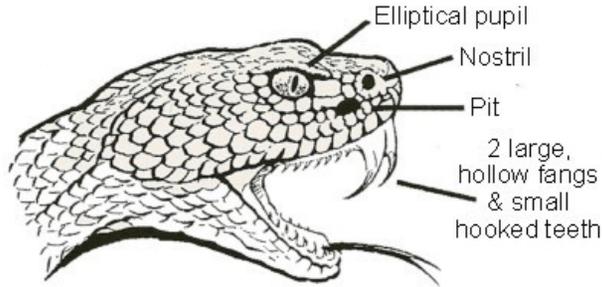
What to DO If you See a Snake

If you spot a snake in your backyard or your house, call 911 to catch and release the snake in wild away from human habitat. This would be a lot better than trying to kill the creature and getting bitten instead. Many people are bitten because they try to kill a snake or get a closer look at it. You should also teach your children to stay away from different types of snakes in the wild.

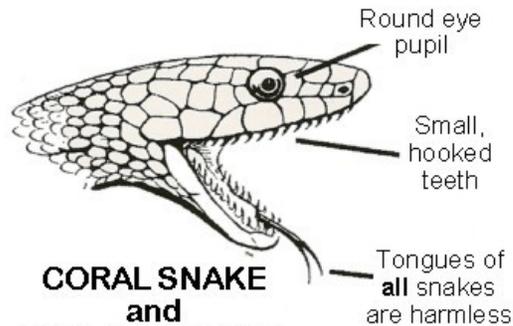
Highlights

After a natural disaster (i.e. hurricanes, tornados, floods), snakes may have been forced from their natural habitats and move into areas where they would not normally be seen or expected. When you return to your home, be cautious of snakes that may have sought shelter in your home. If you see a snake in your home, immediately call 911 to catch and release the snake in wild away from human habitat.

Identifying Traits



PIT VIPERS



**CORAL SNAKE
and
NON-VENOMOUS
SNAKES**



**Nacogdoches
Fire
Department**

Venomous Snakes of Nacogdoches



Nacogdoches Fire Department
214 E Pilar St
Nacogdoches, Texas
936 559 2541

CALL 911

What to DO following a snake bite!

Nacogdoches Venomous Snakes

Statistics and Myths

Do

- Remain Calm
- Immediately call 911
- Immobilize the bitten area
- Keep affected area at or below the heart
- Limit victim's movement
- Remove all jewelry (i.e rings, bracelets, watch, etc.) restrictive clothing and any constrictive item before swelling occurs.
- Safely try to observe snake's identifying traits (i.e. colors, patterns, size)

Don't

- Don't use a tourniquet
- Don't drink or apply alcohol
- Don't cut or suck the wound
- Don't apply ice
- Don't attempt to catch the snake
- Don't attempt to kill the snake
- Don't touch/handle a dead snake

Prevention Tips

- Be cautious around shrubs, tall grass and areas surrounding creeks, lakes and marshes.
- Always wear protective gloves and shoes when working outdoors.
- Look before sitting, stepping or reaching near or around logs or rocks.
- Avoid placing hands in areas that are hidden or concealed.
- Use caution when cleaning up debris after a natural disasters (i.e. hurricanes, tornados, floods) for displaced and frightened snakes.

Copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*)



- Found in wooded areas and along creeks.
- Light brown with dark brown to red-brown saddle-shaped cross bands.
- Easily blends into surroundings due to unique camouflage ability.
- Adult size 20-36 inches.

Water Moccasin/Cottonmouth (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*)



- Found near bodies of water.
- Colors vary from black to gray to brown with dark brown markings on its heavy body.
- Distinctive patterns appear on juveniles.
- Known for holding its ground, and when disturbed will often give an "open mouth display".
- Adult size 3-4 feet.

Texas Coral Snake (*Micrurus tener*)



- Colorful red, yellow and black thin bodied snake
- Can be identified by the rhyme "red on yellow, kill a fellow, red on black, venom lack."
- Adult size 2-3 feet.

Timber Rattlesnake/Canebrake (*Crotalus horridus*)



- Found near moist lowland forest and edge of clear cuts.
- Heavy-bodied tan snake with black cross bands and black tail with rattle.
- Adult size 40-60 inches.

Pigmy Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus miliarius*)



- Also called the "ground rattler".
- Found in wooded or lowlands.
- Gray in color with brown or dark gray blotches and red highlight from head to tail.
- Due to its defensive behavior, this snake is a frequent offender.
- Adult size 15-20 inches.

Snake Bite Statistics

- About 7,000 people are bitten by venomous snakes in the U.S. annually.
- Only 0.2% (1 out of 500) venomous snake bites result in death.
- On average, 1 to 2 people in Texas die each year from venomous snake bites in Texas.
- Roughly half of all venomous snake bites are "dry." That is, the snake does not inject venom into the victim.

Common Myths About Snakes

1. Coral snakes have rear fangs.
Coral snakes actually have front, fixed and grooved fangs which provide a primitive delivery of venom (compared to the pit viper).
2. Coral snakes can only bite small, thin areas.
Coral snakes can bite anything its mouth can grip. Its mouth is larger than it appears.
3. Coral snakes have to chew to inject their venom.
Coral snakes bite and hold on to inject their venom.
4. Cottonmouths cannot bite underwater.
How do you think they catch water prey, such as fish?
5. Snakes always chase you when they are scared.
If a snake comes quickly in your direction, it is most likely because it is confused. Its goal is to get away from you.