



Rattlesnake Awareness!

This year's dryness has brought increased populations of rattlesnakes
Prevention of Snake Bites

- Always give snakes the right of way.
- Baby rattlesnakes are poisonous, and do bite.
- Don't tease or scare a snake; they can strike within several feet.
- Hands, feet & ankles most commonly bit, so wear hiking boots when walking in the rough. (Long, loose pants or high boots are best.)
- Use a walking stick; the snake can strike the stick instead of you.
- Stay on paths, avoid tall grass & heavy underbrush.
- Look out for hidden snakes before picking up rocks, sticks & firewood, or sitting on rocks & stumps.
- When climbing, look before you stick your hand on a rock (snakes like high places, they can climb walls, trees & rocks).
- Rattlesnakes SWIM. Don't grab "sticks" or "branches" while swimming!
- Don't handle freshly killed snakes; they can still bite (the head is alive & will be triggered if a hand is placed by it) and release venom for weeks after death.
- Don't hike alone.
- Eliminate areas snakes like to live in around the home (snakes like damp areas to hide & mice to prey on).
- They do not always rattle before striking.
- If you have to go in grassy areas, sweep with a stick to warn them.
- If confronted, move slow & back away.
- If bitten, remain calm & get to a hospital ASAP.
Remove restrictive clothing & jewelry before swelling begins.

More Facts

- Eggs hatch in fall, babies are 1-2 inches long.
- Typically they are found in Hot & low elevations, but have been found as far up as Mi-Wuk this year
- 70 bites so far this year compared to 35 for all of 2006

