

Be Snake Smart

How to avoid snake conflicts :

1. Wear boots when working in tall grass or cluttered areas.
2. Step around, not over, debris as snakes may be hidden on the other side.
3. Never put your hands where you cannot clearly see if a snake is present.
4. Do not harass snakes; they may bite if threatened.
5. If you encounter a rattlesnake, leave it alone. Report it to the foreman or manager so that the snake can be relocated.
6. One person should watch the snake from a distance of 3 metres so it can be tracked and relocated by the designated snake handler.

If someone is bitten :

In the unlikely event that someone is bitten by a rattlesnake, ensure you:

1. Remove the victim from the vicinity of the snake.
2. Keep the victim calm and minimize exertion.
3. Have someone monitor the snake's movements from a distance of 3 metres so that no one else encounters it.
4. Remove any constricting clothing or jewellery from the victim, especially near the bitten body part.
5. Inform the foreman or manager and get transportation to take the victim to hospital
6. Phone ahead to the hospital so they can prepare to treat the victim.
7. Get to the hospital as soon as possible.
8. DO NOT cut the wound or apply a tourniquet as this can cause medical problems.
9. DO NOT attempt to suck out the poison.

REMEMBER, RATTLESNAKE BITES ARE ALMOST NEVER FATAL AND RARELY CAUSE ANY LONG-TERM HARM

**Snakes are Protected by law.
Provincial and Federal laws make it
an offence to harass or kill a snake.**

SNAKE SMART Posters
& Workshops are
produced by:



Photos Courtesy of :

Top : M.Bezener (left); S.Klein (right)

Middle : M.Bezener (left & right)

Bottom (clockwise): A.Valecka ; M.Sarell
J.Hobbs; J.Hobbs ; J.Dulisse

Snake Identification

In the southern interior of BC, only the *Northern Pacific Rattlesnake* is venomous.



Northern Pacific Rattlesnake

Other Snakes of the Southern Interior of BC

The non-venomous Gopher Snake is usually mistaken for the Rattlesnake.



TAIL HAS NO RATTLE

NARROW HEAD WITH DARK LINE ACROSS FACE

THICK, TAN-COLOURED BODY

Gopher Snake

BROAD TRIANGULAR-SHAPED HEAD

REDDISH-BROWN OR GREY BODY WITH DARK RINGS SURROUNDED BY LIGHT 'HALOS'



Rattlesnake



Night Snake



Rubber Boa



Racer



Common Garter



Terrestrial Garter