



County of Santa Clara

*Emergency Medical Services System  
Public Information*



# PREVENTING SNAKE BITES

## Tips for Safety:

- If you see a snake, stop and keep your distance. Give the snake plenty of room to get away.
- Always watch where you step and be sure to look for snakes in areas of high brush, under logs and when stepping over logs, or fallen trees.
- Never try to touch a snake or scare it away; give the snake its space and back away to a safe place.
- Wear heavy boots that are four inches above the ankle, and long pants when hiking.
- Be observant for snakes sunning on rocks or trails, especially in the cooler times of day.
- Tell a ranger or park staff if you see a snake, and NEVER try to catch it.

## In the rare case of being bitten by a snake, remember these steps:

- Do not panic, remain calm, and slowly move away from the snake.
- Call 9-1-1 or send someone for help
- DO NOT apply cold pack, tourniquet, cut the bite, or attempt to suck-out venom
- Avoid movement of the area that was bitten.
- Keep the bite at or below heart level.
- If you have time, take note of the time of the bite.
- Do not attempt to kill or catch the snake but do try to remember what the snake looked like.



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