

SSSnake SSSense

At least nine kinds of snakes grace Del Valle's oak woods, grassy fields, and watery edges. They feed on rodents and other small creatures and are in turn food for other predators. Most snakes are harmless to humans and pets, but any snake will bite in self-defense. A rattlesnake bite is a dangerous medical emergency.

Always hike with a friend so you can help each other in any emergency.

NEVER PUT YOUR HANDS OR YOUR FEET, YOUR REAR OR YOUR GEAR, IN A PLACE YOU CAN'T SEE CLEARLY FIRST.

IF YOU SEE A RATTLESNAKE:

- **LEAVE IT ALONE.** Most people bitten by rattlesnakes have been trying to capture or kill a snake. All park wildlife is protected by law.
- Move away slowly and admire it from a distance.
- If a rattlesnake is in a picnic area or campsite, notify park staff.

IF BITTEN:

- **STAY CALM** and move slowly.
- **CALL 911** or contact park staff immediately. Rattlesnake bites require immediate medical treatment.
- Loosen clothing, shoes or jewelry at the site of the bite because the bite area may swell.
- **DO NOT** cut and suck the wound, drink alcohol, apply ice or a tourniquet.

Una versión en español de esta información es disponible in el Rocky Ridge Visitor Center.

LEARN TO RECOGNIZE A RATTLESNAKE

RATTLESNAKE

Venomous, uses venom to subdue and digest its prey.



Body

Thick, with dull skin.

Head

Triangular, much wider than neck.

Tail

Black and white bands and blunt rattle at tip. May or may not shake rattle in warning. Rattle sounds like bacon sizzling.

GOPHER SNAKE

Not venomous, constricts its prey.



Head

Narrow, slightly larger than neck.

Body

Slender, usually shiny.

Tail

Pointed.