



SNAKE BITES

Venomous snake species found in the United States include rattlesnakes, coral snakes, cottonmouths (or water moccasins), and copperheads. Each year, somewhere between 7,000 – 8,000 people in the U.S. are bitten by venomous snakes, leading to about 5 deaths.

PREVENTING SNAKE BITES

Employees working in places where they may encounter snakes must know:

- Their risk of exposure to venomous snakes.
- Which species they may encounter.
- How to prevent snake bites.
- What actions to take if they are bitten.

When working in places where you may encounter snakes:

- Wear heavy gloves and boots.
- Be cautious of where you place your hands and feet, especially in tall grass, woodpiles, rocky areas, and near piles of leaves or debris. Snakes may also be encountered in the water.

If you encounter a snake:

- Do not try to handle it.
- Slowly back away.
- If a snake is found indoors, call the local animal control agency.

SNAKE BITE SYMPTOMS

Symptoms differ depending on the species of snake, but may include the following:

- A pair of puncture wounds at the bite location.
- Severe swelling, redness, and pain at the bite location.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- Numbness or tingling around the face, arms, or legs.
- Blurry or abnormal vision.
- Breathing difficulty.
- Sweating and increased salivation.

SAFETY MATTERS

TRAINING FROM KMIT



ToolBox
TALKS

FIRST AID FOR SNAKE BITES

- Call 911 and seek medical attention as quickly as possible.
- Inform a supervisor of the snake bite.
- Keep the victim calm. Have them rest to slow the progression of venom through the body.
- If possible, take note of what the snake looked like to aid in identification and treatment.
- If you cannot get to the hospital right away:
 - Wash the bite with soap and water and cover with a clean dressing.
 - Have the victim lay or sit down.
 - Keep the bite wound below the level of the heart.

Do not:

- Try to capture or kill the snake responsible for the bite.
- Wait for symptoms to appear before seeking medical attention.
- Apply a tourniquet.
- Cut the bite area with a knife.
- Try to suck out the venom by mouth.
- Apply ice to the bite area or immerse in water.
- Give the victim caffeine, any other stimulants, or alcohol.





ToolBox TALKS

Date: _____

Location/Dept: _____

Instructor Signature: _____

Sign Name:

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By signing this sheet you are acknowledging participation in this training.