

Snake Bite Prevention & Treatment

A rattlesnake bite can produce painful swelling, bruising, tissue destruction, bleeding problems and, in rare cases, can be fatal. Most bites occur between the months of April and October.

Children are naturally curious and may look into open pipes or under rocks, or kick loose brush and bushes where snakes may sometimes be hiding. Rattlesnakes do not always make a rattling sound, so someone can be standing next to a rattlesnake and not even know it. Children need to be carefully supervised outside, especially in wooded and desert areas where snakes tend to live.

Rattlesnake bite prevention tips include:

-] Wear boots and long pants when hiking.
-] Stay on trails when hiking, away from underbrush and tall weeds.
-] Do not touch or disturb a snake, even if it appears dead.
-] Carefully inspect logs or rocks before sitting on them.
-] Never hike alone in remote areas. Always have someone with you who can assist in an emergency.
-] Teach children to respect snakes and to leave them alone.

Do not apply ice, **Do Not** use a tourniquet or constricting band, **Do Not** try to suck out the venom and **Do Not** use any device to cut or slice the bite site.

Keep calm, do not run and keep the affected extremity elevated during transport to a medical facility.

Get IMMEDIATE Medical treatment!! The damage the venom causes can be irreversible and deadly. **Do NOT** attempt to bring the snake with you to the Emergency Room!

The effects of a venomous snake bite can vary from person to person and also by species of snake. If you are bitten, go to the nearest ER. The key is getting the treatment started as quickly as possible – **DO NOT DELAY!**

Electra Memorial Hospital ER has the treatment for rattlesnake bites. It is called Crofab. We are able to provide this treatment in collaboration with a local organization called **Peyton's Project**. Upon arrival to EMH, we will give you the initial dose needed to decrease the damage that the venom can do. The provider will then determine if you need to be transferred to another hospital where they have specialists to care for any complications from the snake bite venom.

Most rural hospitals in the area are able to provide you with this treatment through a partnership with **Peyton's Project**. If you are away from home, **Go to the nearest ER** to get the treatment started.



Remember **SLB**

S—STOP—freeze where you are since snakes react to vibrations

L—LOCATE - determine where the snake is

B—BACK AWAY 5 GIANT SLOW steps. Keep the snake in front of you.

Once you are a safe distance away, immediately tell an adult.

SNAKEBITE₉₁₁

Download this app—gives you location of nearest facility carrying snake antivenin, pre-treatment and more!

