

Snake Safety

March through the end of November, you have a chance of seeing a snake. When snakes first appear after a long winter, they are looking for a meal and then a mate. As temperatures increase in spring and through the end of summer, you may occasionally encounter snakes in your yard and during outdoor activities. By following these guidelines, you can keep you and your family more safe & secure from snakes.

1. Never go barefoot or wear sandals when walking through wild areas. Always wear hiking boots.
2. When hiking, stick to well-used trails & wear over the ankle boots with loose fitting pants. Avoid tall grass, weeds and heavy underbrush where snakes may hide during the day.
3. Do not step or put your hands where you cannot see. Avoid wandering around in the dark. Step ON logs and rocks, never over them. Be especially careful when climbing rocks or gathering firewood. Check out stumps or logs before sitting down, and shake out sleeping bags before use.
4. Never grab 'sticks' or 'branches' while swimming in lakes & rivers. Rattlesnakes can swim.
5. Be careful when stepping over the doorstep as well. Snakes like to crawl along the edge of buildings where they are protected on one side.
6. Never hike alone. Always have someone with you who can assist in an emergency.
7. Do not handle a freshly killed snake, it can still inject venom.
8. Teach children early to respect snakes and to leave them alone. Children are naturally curious & may pick up snakes.



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