



In anticipation of this year's Rattlesnake season, we have some helpful tips to help our residents avoid snake bites. This year Arizona has been getting warm sooner rather than later and this means the rattlesnakes will be coming out of hibernation a lot earlier !! We have been seeing the snakes come out in February, which is unusual because Rattlesnake season is typically from April to November. Here are some things to be on the lookout for when dealing with Rattlesnakes.

- Always be on the lookout for snakes when entering heavy brush or grassy areas.
- When opening or closing doors to your home, remember to always look down at your feet before entering the desired area.
- Be especially careful when taking walks or hikes at night and remember to bring a flashlight with you at all times.
- Rattlesnakes may or may not make a rattling noise before striking.

**If you encounter a Rattlesnake you should follow these tips**

- Move back slowly and deliberately.
- If you can do so, put at least four to six feet between your body and the snake.
- Then you can walk away - because Rattlesnakes don't chase people !!

***If you are bitten by a rattlesnake follow these guidelines***

**DO**

- Do remain calm and move away from the snake.
- Do remove all jewelry, watches, etc., from the affected area.
- Do immobilize affected area and keep at level below the heart.
- Drink fluids to help prevent shock.
- Do decrease total body activity as much as possible.
- Do seek medical attention as soon as possible.

**DON'T**

- Don't apply ice to the bitten area.
- Don't make an incision of any kind on the wound.
- Don't try to suction or suck out the poison.
- Don't use a constriction band or tourniquet.
- Don't administer drugs or alcohol.
- Don't use electric shock treatment.

