

# Snakes of the Southern Interior

There are seven snake species in BC's Southern Interior.

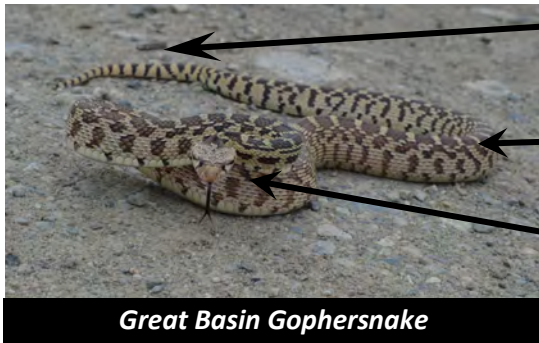
The only venomous snake is the *Northern Pacific Rattlesnake*.



- Broad, triangular head with an obvious 'neck'
- Thick brown-green to green-grey body, sometimes reddish
- Darker circles down the back with light 'halos' around them
- Tail ends in a rattle or small button

***Northern Pacific Rattlesnake***

Harmless *Gophersnakes* are often mistaken for rattlesnakes.



- Tail ends in a point with no evidence of a rattle
- Slim tan body with darker broken up rectangles along it
- Small head, often has a dark band across the eyes

***Great Basin Gophersnake***

Other snake species in the BC Interior:



***Yellow-bellied Racer***



***Rubber Boa***



***Terrestrial Garter Snake***



***Common Garter Snake***



***Desert Night Snake***

# BE SNAKE SMART!

## **Avoid conflict with snakes:**

- Wear boots and pants when working in tall grass or cluttered areas.
- Step around, not over debris, as a snake could be on the other side.
- Never put hands someplace where you cannot see if a snake is present.
- Never harass a snake; they may bite if threatened.
- If you encounter a rattlesnake, *leave it alone*.
- If you see a rattlesnake somewhere it shouldn't be (eg. under a car, in a playground), move at least 3 metres away and call a Conservation Officer at 1-877-952-7277 monitoring the snake if it begins to move.

## Snake Bites

In the very unlikely event of a rattlesnake bite:

1. Remove the person from the vicinity of the snake, but monitor the snake's movements from at least 3 m away so no one else walks by.
2. Keep the person calm and minimize their exertion.
3. Remove any constricting clothing or accessories from the person, especially near the bitten body part.
4. Get to a hospital as soon as possible, phoning ahead so the hospital can prepare for a snake bite victim.

### **DO NOT:**

- Kill the snake
- Attempt to suck out the poison
- Cut the wound/apply a tourniquet

*Remember, rattlesnake bites are almost never fatal and rarely cause long-term harm.*

**ALL OF BC'S SNAKES ARE PROTECTED BY LAW.  
IT IS ILLEGAL TO HARASS OR HARM A SNAKE.**

This project supported by:



Photo Credit: Jared Maida (rattlesnake), Alyson Skinner (common garter), Valerie Blow (nightsnake), Lia McKinnon (all others)