

# Be Snake Smart!

There are 7 species of snake in the BC Interior. Only one snake, the Northern Pacific Rattlesnake, is venomous. Northern Pacific Rattlesnakes are shy and non-aggressive, preferring to avoid confrontation and usually hiding under cover to stay safe. They may strike if provoked, however, so should be treated with caution and respect.



## Some ways to help minimize potential snake encounters:

1. Wear tall boots or gaiters when working in tall grass or cluttered areas.
2. Step around, not over, debris as snakes may be hidden on the other side.
3. Never put your hands where you cannot clearly see if a snake is present.
4. Do not harass snakes; they may bite if threatened.
5. If you encounter a rattlesnake, leave it alone. Report it to a foreman or manager so the snake can be relocated.
6. Leave one person to watch the snake from a distance of 3 metres so it can be found by a designated snake handler.

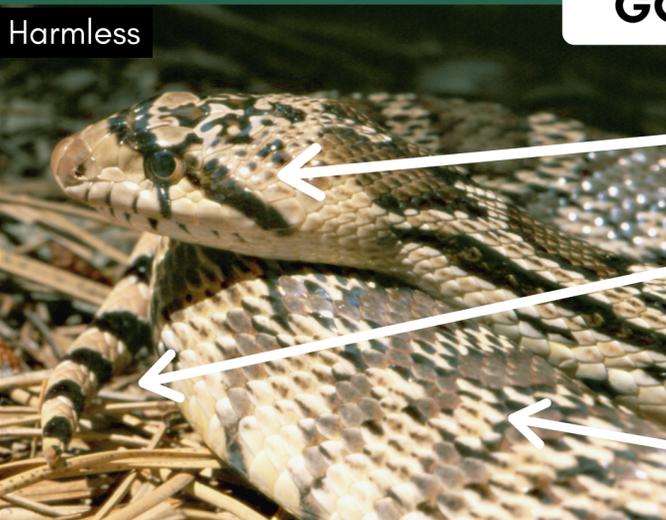
## In the unlikely event that someone is bitten by a rattlesnake:

1. Remove them from the vicinity of the snake.
2. Keep them calm and minimize their exertion.
3. Have someone monitor the snake from at least 3 m (10 ft) away so nobody else goes near.
4. Remove any tight clothing or jewellery from the injured person, especially near the bite.
5. Inform the foreman or manager and find transportation to take the person to hospital.
6. Phone ahead to the hospital so they can prepare for a snakebite.
7. Get the person to the hospital as soon as possible.
8. **DO NOT:** cut the wound, apply a tourniquet, or attempt to suck out the venom.



**RATTLESNAKE BITES RARELY  
CAUSE LONG-TERM HARM**

## GOPHERSNAKES VS RATTLESNAKES



Harmless

NARROW HEAD WITH  
DARKER EYE MASK

THIN, POINTY TAIL.  
NO RATTLE

SLIM, LIGHT TAN  
BODY. SQUARE  
DARK PATCHES

**GREAT BASIN GOPHERSNAKE**



Venomous

TAIL ENDS IN RATTLE  
OR SMALL BUTTON

THICK TRIANGLE-  
SHAPED HEAD

RED-BROWN OR  
GREEN-GREY BODY.  
ROUND DARK PATCHES  
WITH PALE OUTLINES.

**NORTHERN PACIFIC RATTLESNAKE**

## OTHER SNAKES OF THE BC SOUTHERN INTERIOR



Yellow-bellied Racer



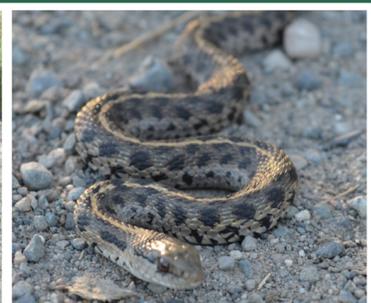
Desert Nightsnake



Common Garter Snake



Rubber Boa



Terrestrial Garter Snake