



Snake Bites

We're #1: Texas boasts the largest number of snake species in the U.S. While most snakes are non-poisonous, every bite should be considered venomous.

4 poisonous snakes:

1. **Rattlesnake**
Responsible for more bites than any other U.S. snake; most effective venomous bite
2. **Cottonmouth (water moccasin)**
Second most effective venomous bite
3. **Copperhead**
Lowest threat to humans
4. **Coral snakes**
Difficult to deliver venom, as they must not just bite you, but latch onto you to deliver venom. Colorful rhyme describes to its crime: "Red touch yellow will kill a fellow. Red on black, venom lack," which refers to the snakes red & black bands, separated by yellow bands.

Envenomation Signs and Symptoms: fang puncture, severe pain at bite site, metallic taste in mouth, swelling, sweating, weakness, and blood clotting problems.

Snake biting season: from April to October, when man and serpent are most likely to come in contact with one another in snake territory. Commonly bitten sites are hands and feet.

First aid:

1. Call Poison Control immediately at **1-800-222-1222**
2. Seek treatment at an Emergency Department
3. Avoid tourniquets, and hot or cold packs

Prevention: Wear pants, boots and gloves and carry a snake bite kit when journeying into snake terrain.

