

VENOMOUS SNAKES IN MARYLAND

Maryland is home to a large diversity of wildlife including many species of snakes. Snakes are rarely aggressive towards humans. If you encounter a snake simply maintain a safe distance and move away from it. Remember to always respect wildlife. *It is illegal to kill snakes in the state of Maryland.*

**Report any potentially venomous snakes to the Duty Ranger (301) 712-6964.
If you are bitten by a snake, remain calm and dial 911.**

Only two kinds of snakes inhabiting Maryland are venomous: the copperhead and the timber rattlesnake. *Both species have been documented in the park.*

NORTHERN COPPERHEAD



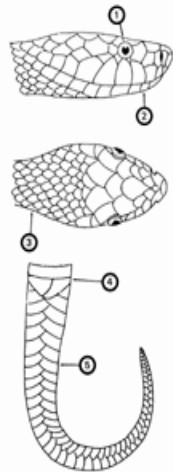
TIMBER RATTLESNAKE



Major Identification Features

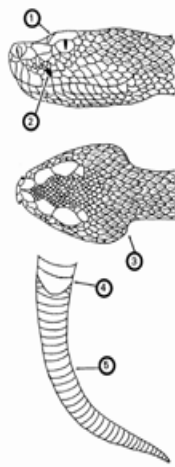
non-venomous snake

Round pupils
No sensing pit
Head slightly wider than neck



venomous snake

Elliptical pupils
Sensing pit between eye and nostril
Head much wider than neck



Snake Bite Prevention Measures

The following are general guidelines to follow to help prevent snake bites

1. Be aware of your surrounding.
2. Stay on the path when hiking.
3. Wear sturdy footwear with closed toes.
4. Maintain a safe distance from any snakes that you encounter.
5. Look before you place your hands when climbing on rocks or over logs.
6. Watch where you step.