

For certain workers there can be a very real opportunity to encounter venomous snakes. Any of the following work could expose individuals to the dangers of snakes:

- Forestry
- Landscaping
- Tree Trimming
- Grounds Keep
- Site Clearing
- General Housekeeping
- Road Construction
- Response to Natural Disasters

**OSHA Standard 1926.21(b)(4)** says that in job site areas where harmful plants or animals are present, employees who may be exposed shall be instructed regarding the potential hazards, and how to avoid injury, and the first aid procedures to be used in the event of injury.

**Rattlesnakes** make a distinct warning sound using their tails as when they feel threatened.

There are many species of rattlesnakes in the United States and are the most recognizable type of snake.

Rattlesnakes may be found sunning themselves near logs, boulders, or open areas.

Found in almost all work areas outdoors, rattlesnakes can be encountered across the United States including the mountains, prairies, deserts, and beaches.

**Remember these tips** to avoid and reduce dangers from snakes:

- **Watch** where you place your hands and feet when removing debris and taking care of housekeeping outside. Consider wearing **heavy gloves** especially when working outdoors and dealing with brush, leaves, or piles of lumber. Consider wearing **boots** at least 10 inches high especially if working near water areas where snakes may be present.
- Remember snakes often bite only when threatened. If you **see a snake, step back** and allow it to proceed.
- **If bitten, call 911** immediately! **Pay attention** to the color and shape of the snake's head to help with treatment. Have someone take a photo, if possible.
- Keep bite victims calm and reduce movement to slow possible spread of venom. Lay victim down so bite is below level of the heart, cover the bite with a clean, dry dressing. **NEVER cut the wound or attempt to suck out the venom.**



Rattlesnake

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