

Venomous Snakes

Safety Meeting Packet

Protect Your Workforce



severe allergy to snake venom.

Employees who perform work outdoors can encounter snake habitats and the risk of a bite from a venomous snake. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that there are between 7,000 and 8,000 venomous snake bites annually in the United States. Although only a small number of bites are fatal due to the medical treatment available, a bite can quickly become dangerous when the person bitten has a

Avoid tall grasses, piles of leaves, and climbing on rocks or piles of wood where snakes may be found. Snakes are most often active at night or when the weather is warm.

Wear clothing, such as long pants and boots, to protect the legs and feet from snake bites. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recommends wearing boots at least 10 inches high to protect against bites. Leather gloves should also be worn when handling brush and debris.

After a Bite

If a snake bite does occur, there are some steps that the bite victim and others in the area should take.

Never try to catch a snake after it bites someone. This can result in others being bitten by the snake. Instead, attempt to view the snake's head shape and coloring to assist medical personnel in providing the appropriate treatment.

Call 911 or seek medical attention immediately. Do not wait for symptoms to appear to act. If it is not possible to obtain medical attention immediately, perform first-aid by having the victim lay down or sit with the bite area below the level of the heart. Wash the bite area with soap and water and apply a clean, dry dressing. Never cut the wound with a knife or attempt to suck out the venom.



It is important to keep the victim calm to slow the spread of venom. This involves keeping him or her still and not providing caffeinated beverages.

Types of Venomous Snakes

There are several types of venomous snakes that can be found in the United States, including Rattlesnakes, Copperheads, Cottonmouths (Water Moccasins), and Coral Snakes. Most snakes are regional and some groups, like Rattlesnakes, consist of several different species.



It can be beneficial to contact a local extension office or state wildlife agency to determine the venomous snakes that may be found near a worksite and how to properly identify them. It may also be beneficial to identify the non-venomous snakes present, as some venomous and non-

venomous snakes have similar appearances, like the Coral Snake (venomous) and Kingsnake (non-venomous).

Preventing Bites

Knowledge is the key to preventing snake bites. Employers should train employees on the risks in their surroundings, the type(s) of poisonous snakes that are known in the area, and preventative measures that they can take to prevent bites.

For additional information, visit the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) website at: www.cdc.gov/niosh.



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Safety Meeting Attendance Acknowledgement

Company Name _____
 Department / Division _____
 Meeting Date & Time _____ AM PM
 Meeting Location _____
 Name & Title of Individual Conducting Meeting _____

Key Meeting Discussion Points / Important Reminders:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Internal Procedures Reviewed:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

By signing this document, you confirm your attendance at the meeting and acknowledge the issues addressed above!

Employees in Attendance		
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
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(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____

Employees not present: _____

Suggestions/Recommendations to improve workplace safety and health: _____

Actions Taken: _____

Manager/Supervisor: _____ Date: _____

Disclaimer:

The information provided above was assembled using multiple resources. However, these materials do not contain ALL the information available regarding the required safety standards under local, provincial, state, or federal law for your industry.
