

Be Aware: Rattlesnakes Live in This Area

The prairies and foothills of Colorado provide habitat for a diversity of wildlife, including several species of snakes. Most snakes you see are not poisonous; however, an encounter with a rattlesnake can be dangerous - take precautions.

To avoid an encounter, stay aware of your surroundings, and follow these tips:

- **Never put your hand or foot where you can't see.** Look before you step over logs or rocks.
- **Most snake sightings occur on summer mornings or evenings.** Snakes are most active at temperatures between 50 and 80 F. **Watch for snakes sunning on sidewalks and trails.**
- **Avoid places where rattlesnakes are likely to rest.** During the day, snakes often seek cooler, shaded places when they are too hot. Avoid crevices, woodpiles, bushes and shrubs, and small animal burrows.
- **Wear leather boots.** Rattlesnakes usually can't bite through leather.
- **If you see a snake, leave it alone.** Most snake bites occur when people try to catch them. Back away slowly and give the snake an easy escape route.

If bitten by a rattlesnake, call 911 and get medical help immediately.

Take a close look at these pictures to see the differences between rattlesnakes and bullsnakes.



Western Prairie Rattlesnake

Rattlesnakes:

- the only poisonous (venomous) snakes native to Colorado
- triangular-shaped head and usually have rattlers on their tails



Bullsnake

Bullsnakes:

- are not poisonous, but can be mistaken for rattlesnakes
- may shake tail like rattlesnakes or hiss
- pointed tail end will never have rattles



*For Wildlife -
For People*