



# Common Snakes of the High Desert

San Bernardino County contains several different species of snakes. While only a few species are poisonous, it is unsafe to try to handle any wild animal. Shown below are a few of the most frequently encountered snakes.



Gopher Snake



Speckled Rattlesnake



Coachwhip (Red Racer)



Mojave Green



California Kingsnake



Southern Pacific Rattlesnake

## Snake Removal

If you think you have a dangerous snake on your property, instead of trying to kill it, risking your own safety and needlessly destroying an innocent wild animal, call Adelanto Animal Care & Control and an officer will respond out and remove the snake.

It is not uncommon to encounter snakes while in the outdoors. What is uncommon is for people to react to the presence of a snake with calm. While several species are potentially dangerous to humans, most are harmless creatures that form vital links in their ecosystems. Common sense is the best protection against dangerous species: *watch where you place your hands, where you place your feet, and where you sit. If you find a snake LEAVE IT ALONE!*

## Keeping snakes out of the yard

Discourage snakes by removing piles of boards or rocks around the home. Use caution when removing those piles - there may already be a snake there. Encouraging and protecting natural competitors like gopher snakes, kingsnakes and racers will reduce the rattlesnake population in the immediate area.

## What to do in the event of a snake bite

Though uncommon, rattlesnake bites do occur, so have a plan. The first thing to do if bitten is to stay calm. Generally, the most serious effect of a rattlesnake bite to an adult is local tissue damage which needs to be treated. Children, because they are smaller, are in more danger if they are bitten.

Get to a doctor as soon as possible, but stay calm. Frenetic, high-speed driving places the victim at greater risk of an accident and increased heart rate. If the doctor is more than 30 minutes away, keep the bite below the heart, and then try to get to the doctor as quickly as possible.



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