

HOME ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Safety is Smart, Prevention is Power



Each year, electrical malfunctions account for **35,000 home fires** causing over **1,130 injuries**, **500 deaths**, and **\$1.4 billion in property damage**.

The average American home was **built in 1977**. Many existing homes **simply can't handle** the demands of today's electrical appliances and devices.

! Learn the warning signs of an overloaded electrical system:



Frequent tripping of circuit breakers or blowing of fuses



Dimming of lights when other devices are turned on



Buzzing sound from switches or outlets



Discolored outlets



Appliances that seem underpowered

⚡ How to avoid overloading circuits:



Label your circuit breakers to understand the different circuits in your home



Have your home inspected by a qualified electrician if it's older than 40 years or has had a major appliance installed



Have a qualified electrician install new circuits for high energy use devices



Reduce your electrical load by using energy-efficient appliances and lighting



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ELECTRICAL SAFETY

While Working From Home



Do you have a **home office** or **work from home**? Follow these **electrical safety tips** to keep you and your home safe from electrical hazards.



1 Avoid **overloading outlets**.



2 **Unplug appliances** when not in use to save energy and minimize the risk of shock and fire.



3 **Regularly inspect** electrical cords and extension cords for damage.



4 Extension cords should only be used on a **temporary basis**.



5 Never plug a space heater or fan into an **extension cord** or **power strip**.



6 Never run cords under **rugs / carpets, doors, or windows**.



7 **Plug in smartly**. Make sure cords do not become tripping hazards.



8 Keep papers and other potential combustibles at least **three feet** away from space heaters and other heat sources.



9 Make sure you use **proper wattage** for lamps / lighting.



10 Make sure your home has **smoke alarms**. Test them monthly, change batteries yearly, and replace the unit every 10 years.

Wherever you work, it's always important to be safe.



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SURGE PROTECTION ⚡

Keeping your Electronics and Home Safe

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association estimates that **60-80%** of surges originate from **internal sources** (within a home or business). Keep your valuable electronics **safe** by protecting them from the surges that can **damage or destroy them**.

What is a power surge? A power surge is a sudden and unwanted **increase in voltage** that can damage, degrade or destroy electronic equipment. Surges can occur when large appliances, such as air conditioners, turn on and off. Surges can also originate from electric utilities or lightning.

LEVELS OF PROTECTION

GOOD



Point-of-Use Surge Protection

Easy to use
- just plug in.

Only protects electronics **plugged into the device**.

Must be **replaced** over time or after a major surge event.

BEST

Whole Home Surge Protection



Must be installed by a **qualified electrician**.

Provides protection for your **entire electrical system** at home including large appliances, outlets, and light switches.

Protects against **larger surges** and provides **longer lasting** surge protection than point-of-use devices.

No surge protection can handle a **direct lightning strike**. **Disconnect** sensitive electronics if you suspect a surge is coming.

Power strips and surge protectors are **not the same**. Not all power strips offer surge protection.



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MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

REACHING TO SAFETY:

Use Extension Cords Properly

Roughly **3,300 home fires** originate in extension cords each year, **killing 50 people and injuring 270 more**. Extension cords can overheat and cause fires when used improperly, so keep these important tips in mind to **protect your home and workplace**.

DON'T attempt to plug extension cords into one another.



Make sure extension cords are **properly rated** for their intended use, indoor or outdoor, and **meet or exceed the power needs** of the appliance or device being used.



Keep all **outdoor extension cords** clear of snow and standing water.



Do **NOT** overload extension cords.



A heavy reliance on **extension cords** is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have **additional outlets installed** where you need them.



Inspect cords for **DAMAGE** before use. Check for **cracked or frayed sockets**, loose or bare wires, and loose connections.



Do **NOT** nail or staple electrical cords to walls or baseboards.



Do **NOT** run through walls, doorways, ceilings or floors. If cord is covered, heat cannot escape, which may result in a **FIRE HAZARD**.



NEVER use **three-prong plugs** with outlets that only have two slots. **Never cut off the ground pin to force a fit**, which could lead to electric shock.



Buy only cords that have been approved by an **independent testing laboratory**.



Do **NOT** substitute **extension cords** for permanent wiring.



DO NOT use an extension cord or a power strip with heaters or fans, which could cause cords to overheat and result in a fire.



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MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



CORN SNAKE
MELISSA MCGAW/NCWRC

COEXIST WITH *Snakes*

Few creatures are as widely misunderstood as snakes. Fueled by myths and old-wives tales, many people fear snakes and worry for the safety of people and pets when snakes are present. In reality, snakes are shy creatures that pose little to no threat to us when left alone. Snakes are an important part of our environment, keeping populations of pests such as rodents, slugs, and insects in check. Plus, snakes are a food resource to other animals such as foxes, raccoons, bears, eagles, hawks, and owls.



MELISSA MCGAW/NCWRC

BLACK RACER

Snake Quick Facts:

How many snakes in North Carolina are Venomous?

Out of the thirty-seven different species of snakes in North Carolina, only six are venomous. Venomous snakes include the Copperhead, Cottonmouth, Timber Rattlesnake, Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake, Pigmy Rattlesnake, and the Eastern Coral Snake. The Copperhead is the most common and widespread venomous snake in North Carolina, occurring in both rural and urban environments. Four of the six are protected species in North Carolina, and as such, should not be handled or disturbed: the Timber and Pigmy Rattlesnakes are both Species of Special Concern, while the Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake and Eastern Coral Snake are both Endangered.

Why do snakes shed their skins?

As a snake grows, its body increases in size, but its skin does not grow with it. Therefore, as they grow, snakes must replace their smaller skins with larger ones. The act of shedding old skin also removes any parasites that may have been present on their skin. Snakes shed their skins in a manner similar to that of pulling off a sock inside out. A snake's shed skin can be useful in identifying the species of snake.

Do snakes pose a threat to humans or pets?

Snake diets vary widely, ranging from mice and other small mammals to birds, fish, and invertebrates (insects, worms,

etc.). Snakes do not regard humans as prey. A snake is more likely to seek escape when confronted, rather than attack. However, if snakes are disturbed or put in a situation without an escape route, they will bite or lunge outward to defend themselves. In general, if left alone, snakes pose no threat to humans or pets.

What should I do when I see a snake?

When someone encounters a snake, usually the person and the snake are both caught off guard. The best plan is to leave the snake alone and give it plenty of space. In most cases, given time, the snake will move out of the area on its own. Like all reptiles, snakes are cold-blooded, meaning that their internal temperatures follow that of the ambient temperatures where they are found. On a cool day, a snake encountered basking may not yet have the energy to move away from you, so it may require more time and warmer temperatures before it can retreat.

Will someone remove snakes from my property?

The N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission does not send people out to trap and remove snakes. Removing one snake is not going to stop another from taking its place. Snakes are found all over NC, from forests to cities, so it makes sense to learn to live with them. The best plan for citizens of North Carolina is to learn about snakes and alter habits to minimize negative interactions, and in the process, learn to coexist with snakes.

TIMBER RATTLESNAKE
PETER REA/USFWS

Preventing Conflicts with Snakes



DENNIS CHURCH/FLICKE

BANDED WATER SNAKE



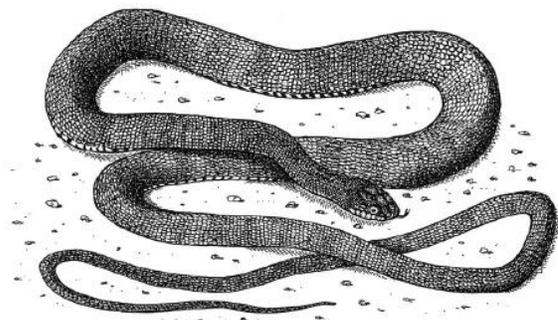
NATALIE MCNEAR/FLICKE

COPPERHEAD

- **DECLUTTER YOUR YARD.** Snakes seek out areas with thick cover where rodents and other prey species are likely to be found. Keeping bushes and plants around your home trimmed and clearing out piles of rock, wood, and other debris will make your property less appealing for snakes.
- **REMOVE ENTRY POINTS.** Discourage snakes from entering your home by closing gaps and holes. Repair damage to siding and foundations and permanently seal openings under doors, windows, and around water pipes. Securing your home will help keep snakes (and other wildlife) out of your living space.
- **BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS.** As you go for walks outside, do yard work, or work in the garden, be aware that snakes could be in the area. Being prepared for the possibility of encountering a snake and watching where you step and place your hands can minimize the chance of you disturbing or stepping on a snake.
- **EDUCATE YOURSELF AND OTHERS.** Always stay a respectful distance away from snakes (and other wildlife) and remind kids to look but not touch. Learning how to identify the species of snakes that commonly occur in your area will help you during an encounter. A good online resource for identifying snakes can be found at herpsofnc.org. If you see a snake and would like help in identifying the

species, you can email photos to wrccomments@ncwildlife.org.

- **IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE REMOVING A SNAKE INSIDE YOUR HOME:** Contact a local, certified Wildlife Damage Control Agent. These are private individuals who charge for their services. You can locate a WDCA in your county by visiting the "Coexisting with Wildlife" page at ncwildlife.org.



BLACK RAT SNAKE



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27606



Venomous Snakes of North Carolina

North Carolina is home to 37 different kinds of snakes, but only a few have venom. By nature snakes are defensive and will not bite humans unless they feel threatened. Snakes in our state are most active from April through October.

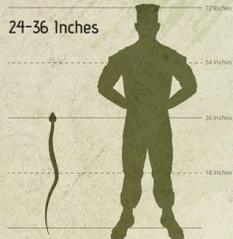
COPPERHEAD (Agkistrodon contortrix)



Characteristics:

Chestnut or brown colored hourglass-shaped markings on its body which has a tan, brown or pinkish background, young copperheads have yellow or green tails.

Typical Adult Length:



Bite Severity:

Delivers potent cytotoxic venom which can damage muscle and bone tissue, causes swelling and is painful, seek medical attention.



90

90% of all venomous snakebites in North Carolina are inflicted by the copperhead.

Habitat:

The Copperhead snake has a statewide range found encompassing rocky mountainsides as well as coastal flat-woods.



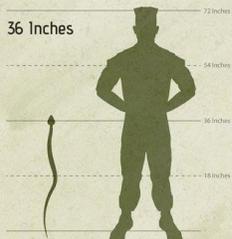
COTTONMOUTH (Agkistrodon piscivorus)



Characteristics:

Black, olive or brown body with crossbands that have a dark margin and light colored centers. A dark bar in the head extends from the eye to the jaw. The adult tail is black, juveniles are more colorful and have a green or yellow tail tip.

Typical Adult Length:



Bite Severity:

Powerful cytotoxin that can destroy tissue, seek medical attention.



20

Cottonmouths also known as water moccasins have a lifespan in the wild between 15-20 years. They also give birth to an average of 5-9 live young but can have as many as 20.

Habitat:

Found near waterbodies: rivers, streams, swamps, roadside ditches and canals, marshes, estuaries and sounds.



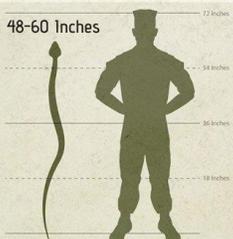
EASTERN DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE (Crotalus adamanteus)



Characteristics:

Dark diamond pattern outlined in black on gray, brown or yellowish skin, sides of the head contain two diagonal lines with a dark stripe, large rattle.

Typical Adult Length:



Bite Severity:

Deadly cytotoxic poison damaging tissue, blood cells, affects circulatory system, can be fatal, medical emergency.



1

The heaviest and largest pit viper in North America and largest of all venomous snakes. It was the symbol of one of the first flags of the United States called the Gadsden flag and had the rattlesnake with the quote "Don't tread on me."

Habitat:

Flatwoods, interspersed with thick bays or pocosins, and sandy ridges of pine and oak.



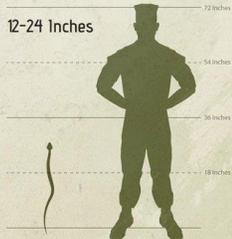
PYGMY RATTLESNAKE (Sistrurus miliarius)



Characteristics:

Gray, pinkish or red skin with a dark, spotted pattern, narrow line runs from eye to the jaw, tail tip has a small rattle.

Typical Adult Length:



Bite Severity:

Produces a cytotoxic venom that is hemorrhagic in nature, medical emergency.



30

Pygmy rattlesnakes aptly named for being the smallest pit viper can immobilize a small mammal within 30-45 seconds after being injected with venom.

Habitat:

Lower coastal plain and sandhills region most abundant in mixed forests of Loblolly Pine and hardwood on the southern Albemarle-Pamlico Sound peninsula.



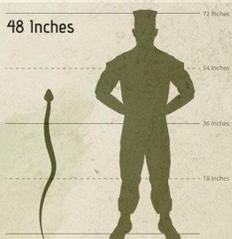
TIMBER RATTLESNAKE (Crotalus horridus)



Characteristics:

Varies in color, dark bands on a lighter skin, coastal varieties have a brown or orange "racing stripe" down the middle of the back, large rattle.

Typical Adult Length:



Bite Severity:

Long fangs and high venom yield, deadly cytotoxic poison damaging tissue, blood cells, affects circulatory system, can be fatal, medical emergency.



15

During warmer months timber rattlesnakes are lone predators; during colder months they hibernate in dens that accommodate 15 or more snakes.

Habitat:

Dense coastal pocosins and low pine flat woods to rocky mountainsides at or above 5,000 feet.



Preventive Measures:

- Never blindly reach or carelessly step when outdoors.
- Always wear closed shoes and long pants when walking through woods, grassy fields, or rocky escarpments.
- Walk around logs instead of blindly stepping over them.
- At night use a flashlight so you can see the ground.
- Never pick up or handle a snake whether it is alive or dead.



Snakebite Treatment:

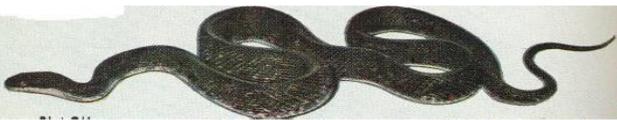
- Sit down, stay calm and contact emergency assistance.
- Remove all jewelry or watches from affected area.
- Reduce physical exertion by the victim.
- DO NOT cut, suck venom, ice, use constricting bands or tourniquets on the affected area.
- Keep the bitten area still, if possible, and raise it to heart level.
- Take note of the snake's size and appearance but DO NOT try to capture or kill the snake.

Snakes of North Carolina

B. Bockhahn 2018



Black Racer



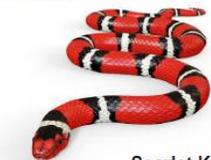
Black Rat Snake



Mud Snake



Coachwhip



Scarlet Kingsnake



Garter Snake



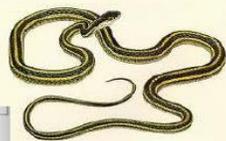
Rainbow Snake



Eastern Kingsnake



Scarlet Snake



Ribbon Snake



Carolina Swamp Snake



Mole Kingsnake



Corn Snake



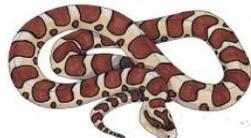
Eastern Hognose Snake



Rough Green Snake



Queen Snake



Eastern Milksnake



Eastern Pine Snake



Southern Hognose

Eastern Hognose



Glossy Crayfish Snake

VENOMOUS



Copperhead



Northern Water Snake



Timber Rattlesnake



Brown Water Snake



NORTHERN

Black Phase

BANDED

RED-BELLIED

SMALL GROUND SNAKES



Worm Snake



Rough Earth Snake

Smooth Earth Snake



Pine Woods Snake



Cottonmouth



Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake



Southeastern Crowned Snake



Ringneck Snake



Coral Snake



Carolina Pygmy Rattlesnake



Red-bellied Snake



Brown Snake

Spring Pet Safety



Plants

Lilies and other seasonal plants can be toxic to pets. Be mindful when choosing your garden or house plants.



Identification

Collar ID tags should be worn at during outdoor time. Make sure microchip information is up to date.



Cleaning Products

Cleaning products are potential poison threats to pets. Keep cleaners out of reach and secured at all times.



Wash & Disinfect

Clothing, toys, and hands should be cleaned if you think you or your pet have been exposed to a contaminant or show signs of allergies or illness.



Preventatives

Talk to your veterinarian about parasite protection and prevention against fleas, ticks and mosquitoes.



Grooming

Keeping your pet clean and groomed prevents skin irritations from allergies, fleas and ticks. It also keeps their temperature regulated.



Thomasville
NORTH CAROLINA

Your links to all official City Thomasville Social Media sources

<http://www.thomasville-nc.gov/services/thomasville-social-media-outlets>

The City maintains a variety of Social Media outlets that are dedicated to different departments and user groups. This page gives you access to all of the official outlets maintained by city staff including the City Facebook page, Parks and Recreation Facebook page, Emergency Management Facebook Page, Police Department Twitter page, and Emergency Management Twitter page.

We also have an emergency push notification system called Nixle. This system allows you to sign-up for notifications- including weather information from the National Weather Service, Emergency road closures or other emergency notifications, along with other community information. Nixle Alerts:

Receive alerts from your local agencies Sign Up at <https://local.nixle.com/register/> ...or text your ZIP CODE to 888777 for mobile alerts

Sign Up : Nixle

You will receive a single opt in welcome message. Reply YES to continue to receive SMS text messages. You may opt out at any point by sending STOP to 888777 . Send HELP to 888777 for information.

Follow our “Safety Sunday” Post on Thomasville City’s Facebook Page

For additional Fire & Life Safety Information Contact: Thomasville FD Fire & Life Safety Division (336)475-5545

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