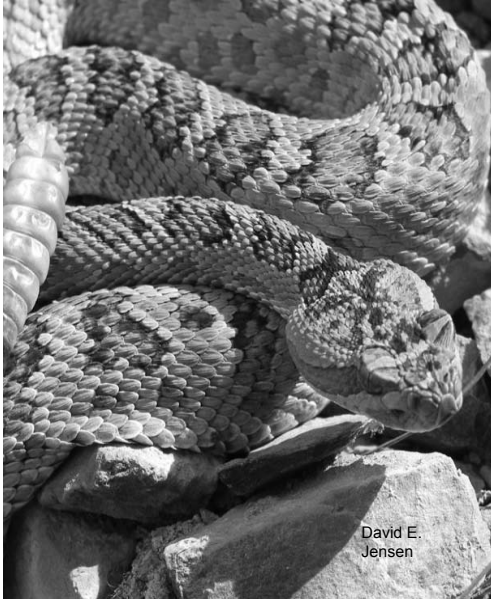


# Welcome to Snake Country

Utah is home to many different species and subspecies of snakes, several of which are venomous.



David E. Jensen

## SHARE THE WILD

Snakes hibernate during the winter under rocks and in burrows. In the summer they are most active at dawn and dusk. Snakes mainly eat rodents, birds and other reptiles. Although most encounters with snakes in Utah are not dangerous, it is important to learn how to keep yourself, your family and pets safe. Here are some tips to avoid conflicts.

## WHILE RECREATING

If you encounter a snake outside of human development, leave it alone – it's in its natural habitat.

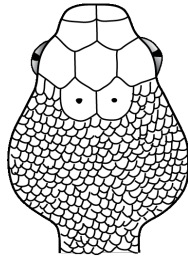
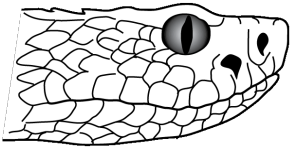
- Never try to poke, handle, corner or harass a snake.
- Most snake bites occur when people are trying to handle or kill the snake. Teach children to respect wildlife and to look, but not touch.
- Snakes hide well on open trails and in dense grasses. Be aware of your surroundings. Look carefully where you place your feet, and before you sit down on the ground, on rocks, or on logs.
- Wear closed-toed shoes while hiking.
- If you hear a rattle, don't jump or panic. Try to locate where the sound is coming from before trying to move. Warn others if they are around.
- If bitten, treat it as if it were a venomous snakebite. Do not use a tourniquet or cold compress. Do not suck out the venom. Keep the victim calm, remove restrictive clothing and jewelry near the bite, and keep the affected area below the level of the heart. Treat for shock if necessary and get medical attention immediately.

## AT HOME

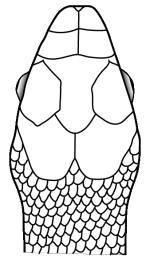
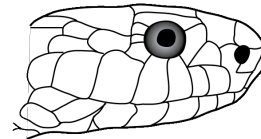
- Supervise children and pets when outside.
- Trim vegetation and remove wood and rock piles to reduce hiding places.
- Control rodents on your property; remove bird feeders, an attractant to rodents.
- Seal any cracks in building foundations, porches, pipes and windows.
- Install a snake proof fence around your property. Visit the WAU website for more information.

wildawareutah.org

## Venomous



## Non-venomous



Venomous snakes in Utah have broad, triangular-shaped heads, and vertical eye pupils. There are heat sensory 'pits' on each side of the snake's head between the nostrils and eyes. Most venomous snakes in Utah have rattles on their tails. Non-venomous snakes have longer snouts and round pupils.

**If you can't tell if the snake is venomous from a distance, leave it alone and treat it as if it were venomous.**

If you have an encounter with aggressive wildlife, please alert the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) office near you. If the encounter occurs after hours or on the weekend, please call your local police department or county sheriff's office, who can contact a conservation officer to handle the situation.

Cedar City, (435) 865-6100 Salt Lake City, (801) 538-4700  
Ogden, (801) 476-2740 Springville, (801) 491-5678  
Price, (435) 613-3700 Vernal, (435) 781-9453