



Why We CARE

WSBTV-Atlanta projected 2024 to be a **record year for venomous snake bites in Georgia**. In one week alone in March, the Georgia Poison Control Center said four people were hospitalized from a snake bite, including a two-year-old child.



#3 Georgia ranks **third** in the U.S. in venomous snake bites per year.

53% of snake bites are from **Copperheads**, the most common poisonous snake in Georgia.

45% of snake bites happen to children **under the age of 17**.

DID YOU KNOW? Snakes usually only bite when provoked, like when a child accidentally steps on it.

How to PLAY IT SAFE

DO

- **CALL** the national Poison Center (from anywhere in the U.S), **800-222-1222**.
- **VISIT** georgiapoisoncenter.org for free online chat. They have translators, too!
- **GO** get it checked out
- Offer an over-the-counter pain reliever.
- Remove any jewelry, clothing or other items on the extremity with the wound.

DON'T

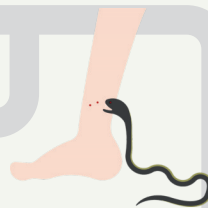
- **Try to capture or kill** the snake.
- **Apply a tourniquet** or restrict blood flow.
- **Cut open** the wound.
- Attempt to **suck venom** from the wound.
- **Apply heat or cold** to the bite.
- **Elevate the wound** if it's on an extremity; try to keep it level with the heart.
- Give your child anything to **eat or drink** and **head to the ED**.

Give them the **Toolkit sheet for Parents and Caregivers**—and **point out the sections on Safety Tips and Dos and Don'ts**.



Offer Parents These Safety Tips

- Frequently **remind your child about the danger of snakes** during Spring and early Summer. This is when snakes come out.
- Keep children **away from areas where snakes may live**, such as wooded areas, under porches, near dead trees or lakes.
- Keep outdoor play areas **clear of debris**.
- Make sure your children wear **shoes and socks** (not just flip-flops) when playing outside. **Better yet, leather boots**.
- Teach kids **not to approach snakes** or reach towards snakes, and to tell an adult if they see a snake.



PLAY IT SAFE

with burn safety, safe sleep, firearms, poison prevention, and more in the **Georgia AAP Toolkit**—gaaap.org/play-it-safe.

