



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

- Frequently **remind your child about the danger of snakes** during Spring and early Summer when snakes come out.
- Keep children **away from areas where snakes may live**, such as wooded areas, under porches, and 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 children **not to approach snakes** or reach towards snakes, and to tell an adult if they see a snake.



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 (this only happens in old Western movies!).
- **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** as you head to the Emergency Room.



PLAY IT SAFE

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

