

Bites, Stings & Venomous Things

The Dangerous Dozen

Venomous critter identification, sting symptoms & wound first aid for
Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas



Southwest Center
FOR AGRICULTURAL HEALTH, INJURY PREVENTION, AND EDUCATION

Copperhead & Cottonmouth



Broad-Banded Copperhead



Trans-Pecos Copperhead



Copperhead & Cottonmouth



Southern Copperhead



Western Cottonmouth



Coral Snakes



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Coral snake symptoms may be delayed for 10-12 hours. If it is likely that the bite is from a coral snake, the victim should be taken to the hospital for observation and treatment.



Pit Vipers



Timber Rattlesnake



Mojave Rattlesnake



Snake Bite Symptoms



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Mild Envenomation

- Fang marks, usually paired but not always
- Mild to severe pain
- Mild inflammation and swelling
- No systemic symptoms

Moderate Envenomation

- Fang marks with swelling
- Immediate pain at bite site & spreading to surrounding tissue
- Blood and/serum may ooze from fang punctures
- Vomiting, metallic taste in mouth
- Muscle twitches or tremors

Severe Envenomation

- Immediate, severe pain at bite site
- Oozing of serum & blood from fang punctures
- Rapid swelling, some bruising
- Metallic taste, numb lips, nose, or tongue
- Blurred vision, altered mental state
- Shock, diffuse, or life-threatening internal bleeding
- Respiratory difficulty
- Kidney failure



Snake First Aid



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DO

- Seek medical attention
- Remain calm
- Remove any rings or constricting items because the affected area may swell
- If possible, wash the bite with soap and water and cover with a clean cloth or dressing
- Immobilize the bitten area
- Keep the bitten limb level with the heart

DO NOT

- NEVER cut the skin
- NEVER attempt to suck the venom out
- NEVER use ice
- NEVER use a tourniquet
- NEVER use aspirin, anti-inflammatory drugs or alcohol
- NEVER use electric shock
- NEVER try to capture the snake

Call the Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 for more instructions.

Black Widow



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Symptoms

- Pin prick bite
- Tingling sensation
- Muscle & abdominal cramping
- Nausea, vomiting & weakness
- Difficult breathing

First Aid

- Benadryl by mouth
- **Seek medical attention immediately**



Scorpion



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Symptoms

- Multiple stings
- Local burning
- Swelling
- Numbness
- Nausea & vomiting
- Irregular heartbeat
- Blood pressure change
- Blurred vision
- Difficulty swallowing

First Aid

- Cool packs
- Topical medication
- Benadryl by mouth
- **Seek Medical attention immediately for face numbness or a metallic taste in the mouth**



Bees



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Symptoms

- Multiple stings
- Painful sting

First Aid

- Remove stinger
- Wash wound
- Apply topical cream containing antihistamines, corticosteroids, benzocaine or menthol
- Apply baking soda paste



Wasps

Symptoms

- Painful sting

First Aid

- Wash wound
- Apply topical cream containing antihistamines, corticosteroids, benzocaine, or menthol
- Apply baking soda paste



Prepared by: Blake Brawley, CASH Intern
Noble Research Institute

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Contact: Shelbie Powell, MPH
Outreach Education Coordinator
903-877-1440
shelbie.powell2@uthct.edu



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