



T² *Technology Transfer Quarterly*

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**Are your signs up to spec?
Find out on pages 2 and 3**



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Emergency Snakebite Action Plan – Is Your Crew Prepared?

Transportation and public works crews face many on the job dangers while outdoors. Some can be a matter of life or death. Crews must be prepared to properly handle snakebites. Keep your crews safe by following these tips on venomous snake safety and identification.

Do

Call 911 – get immediate medical help for any snakebite.

- Assume the snake was venomous unless you are 100 percent certain of the snake's identity.
- Your cell phone is your best snakebite kit. After you call 911, call the Poison Control Center's National Hotline: 1.800.222.1222, give them the name of the hospital where the victim is being transported, and request that a toxicologist contact the hospital to ensure the best possible care. This may be especially important if you are bitten by a Coral Snake, as the Poison Control Center may be able to help find antivenin.
- If you are 100 percent positive that the bite is from a non-venomous snake, wash the bite gently with soap and warm water, and schedule a doctor's appointment for a check-up. Snakes have many harmful bacteria in their mouths, and your doctor may want to prescribe an antibiotic.
- Venom extractors, such as the Sawyer Extractor® may help slightly if applied within 5 minutes of the bite and used for 30 minutes BUT it is not a substitute for proper medical care.

Get the victim away from the snake.

- Avoid multiple bites — get away from the snake!
- Don't waste time trying to identify, catch, or kill the snake. It is not necessary to confirm the snake's identity

The Agkistrodon Piscivorus also know as the Cottonmouth ▼



▲ *The Sistrurus Miliarious also know as the Pygmy Rattlesnake*

to ensure proper treatment, and more people may get bitten — leave it alone!

Keep the victim warm, as comfortable as possible, and offer reassurance.

Keep a record of the victim's symptoms and be aware of any allergies.

- Record the time of the bite, as well as a basic description of the snake.
- Record any allergies (drug, food, or animal) or medical conditions the victim may have while they are still able to communicate. Snake anti-venom, which may be administered at the hospital to counteract the effects of the venom, is produced with the aid of horses or sheep, so it is important to know if the victim has any allergies to these animals. Allergy to latex, papaya, or meat tenderizer could also be a problem.
- Note symptoms and their timing: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, swelling, redness, numbness, drowsiness, difficulty breathing, etc.
- Document any first aid measures administered since the bite.

Remove bracelets, rings, and constrictive clothing, as swelling is likely to occur.

Keep the bitten extremity (hand, arm, foot, leg) lower than the victim's heart.

Wash the bite wound with soap and water – but don't delay seeking help!

Do not

Do not wait for symptoms to develop. Get help immediately!

Do not apply traditional remedies. They can cause more damage!

- Do not apply ice, heat, a tourniquet, or electric shock.
- Do not attempt to make an X incision and suck out the venom.
- Do not allow the victim to take any stimulants (such as caffeine) or drink alcohol. These substances will speed up the effects of the venom.

Do not attempt to catch or kill the snake. This may result in another bite and is not necessary to ensure proper treatment.

Do not handle dead venomous snakes. Snakes presumed dead can inject venom by reflex biting. One study

found that rattlesnake heads were dangerous up to an hour after decapitation

Free CD, DVD, and Poster

To learn more about Florida's venomous snakes, visit ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu, and follow the link to *dealing with snakes*. To request a free CD, DVD, and poster, go to ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/free_snake_cd.shtml or email Dr. Steve A. Johnson at tadpole@ufl.edu

Excerpt edited from University of Florida/IFAS materials by Dr. Steve A. Johnson and Monica E. McGarrity, online at ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu The pictures are courtesy of Dr. Steve A. Johnson.

The Center for Transportation Training

The Center for Transportation Training (CTT) provides Construction Training Qualification Program (CTQP) training for transportation construction crew members involved with producing and maintaining our state's highways. View the current class schedule and register for the courses listed below by visiting ctt.ce.ufl.edu or call 352.846.3593 EXT 1.

Aggregates

LBR Technician
Qualified Sampler Technician

Asphalt

Asphalt Mix Design
Asphalt Paving Level 1
Asphalt Paving Level 2
Asphalt Plant Level 1
Asphalt Plant Level 2

Concrete

Concrete Batch Plant Operator
FDOT Concrete Field Inspector Specification
FDOT Concrete Laboratory Technician Specification

Earthwork

Earthwork Construction Level 1
Earthwork Construction Level 2

Geotech

Drilled Shaft Inspection
Pile Driving Inspection

Project Management

QC Manager
Final Estimates Level 2



National Public Works Week

May 18-24, 2008

Since 1960, the American Public Works Association (APWA) has sponsored National Public Works Week. This year's theme is *The Future Is Now*.

To learn more visit www.apwa.net/About/npww/

To order posters visit www.apwa.net/bookstore/detail.asp?PC=PSTR08.S