

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Rattlesnake Safety and Awareness

THE FACTS

The only dangerously venomous snake native to Jeffco Open Space is the prairie rattlesnake, *Crotalus viridis*.

Prairie rattlesnakes are most active April–October, but can be spotted basking by den sites on warm winter days.

74% of park visitors report seeing one or more rattlesnakes in the past two years. Only 4% report direct conflict (a human or pet bite).

REDUCE RISK

- Leash your dog
- Wear closed-toe shoes
- Stay on designated trails
- Be aware of your surroundings and keep one earbud out
- If you see a rattlesnake, practice the 30/30 rule.

Walk 30 feet away from the snake and give it 30 seconds to leave the trail. NEVER attempt to move or harm a rattlesnake. Give snakes space and time to move away from you.



RATTLESNAKE BITE FIRST AID

- Call 911
- Remain calm
- Sit down and keep the bitten area at or below the level of your heart
- Do not attempt to drive yourself to a medical facility
- Remove rings, bracelets or other items that could restrict blood flow with severe swelling
- Record the time the bite occurred and monitor for severe symptoms such as difficulty breathing

- DO NOT: cut skin, suck puncture wounds, apply a tourniquet, apply ice or water or use a venom extraction kit

IF YOUR PET IS BITTEN BY A RATTLESNAKE:

- Immediately transport to a veterinary medical facility
- If possible, carry your pet to reduce activity and the overall effect of venom
- Call ahead and ensure the veterinarian is prepared for a snake bite emergency



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