PREVENTING SNAKE BITES

Tips for Safety:

• If you see a snake, stop and keep your distance. Give the snake plenty of room to get away.
• Always watch where you step and be sure to look for snakes in areas of high brush, under logs and when stepping over logs, or fallen trees.
• Never try to touch a snake or scare it away; give the snake its space and back away to a safe place.
• Wear heavy boots that are four inches above the ankle, and long pants when hiking.
• Be observant for snakes sunning on rocks or trails, especially in the cooler times of day.
• Tell a ranger or park staff if you see a snake, and NEVER try to catch it.

In the rare case of being bitten by a snake, remember these steps:

• Do not panic, remain calm, and slowly move away from the snake.
• Call 9-1-1 or send someone for help
• DO NOT apply cold pack, tourniquet, cut the bite, or attempt to suck-out venom
• Avoid movement of the area that was bitten.
• Keep the bite at or below heart level.
• If you have time, take note of the time of the bite.
• Do not attempt to kill or catch the snake but do try to remember what the snake looked like.