

# VENOMOUS SNAKE SAFETY

Two species of venomous snake occur in this area:  
the Eastern Copperhead and Timber Rattlesnake.



## Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*)

- Large spade-shaped head with elliptical pupil
- Heat-sensing pit between nostril and eye
- Tail rattle
- Variable coloration: yellow and black phases with dark blotches or chevrons down back

Visit [dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife](http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife) to learn more about the snakes of Maryland!

## Eastern Copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*)

- Vertically elliptical pupil
- Heat-sensing pit between nostril and eye
- Tan to brown body with distinct hourglass blotches
- Juveniles have bright yellow tail tip



## Snake Bite Prevention

1. Stay on the trail when hiking and watch where you step.
2. Wear sturdy, closed-toe footwear.
3. Look before you place your hands and feet when climbing over rocks or logs.
4. Maintain a safe distance from any snakes that you encounter.

**In the rare case of a venomous snake bite, contact the Maryland Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222 and seek immediate medical attention.**

**All snakes are an important part of our ecosystem and are protected from killing under Maryland Department of Natural Resources regulations.**

COMAR 08.03.11.09

**Please report violations to Maryland Wildlife Crime Stoppers  
443-433-4112**



Wildlife and Heritage Service  
580 Taylor Ave, Annapolis MD 21401  
410-260-8540  
1/2020

