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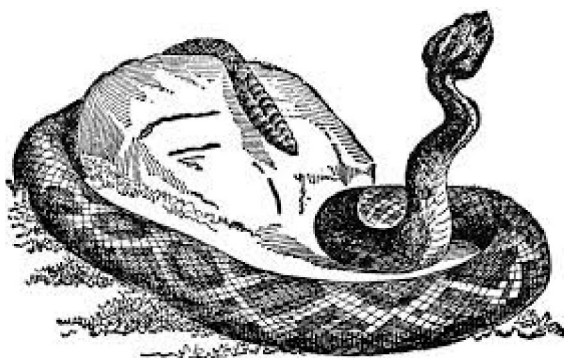
Monthly Safety Blast

Produced by the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education

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Watch Your Step Around Snakes

It's the time of year when farmers, ranchers and rural residents are busy doing yard work and field plowing before the fall breeze rolls in. However, agricultural producers are not the only ones busy this time of year. In August and September, snakes are particularly active trying to get in a couple more meals before hibernation. Now is a good time to watch your step and where you stick your hand.



Areas to Avoid

Thick corn fields, tall grass, fallen logs, and old barns are not just perfect home structures for rodents, but also the perfect buffet line for snakes. Ponds are also ideal habitats for snakes due to the thick vegetation and access to small animals. Workers and people who live in rural areas should avoid snake habitats, if at all possible.

Safety Tips

It doesn't matter if you're a farmer or just tending to the yard, the following tips can help you avoid a snake bite while performing outdoor work.

- Use a lawn rake or a wooden stick to check dark areas before you enter with your hand, foot or other body part.
- Wear thick gloves and boots while working in snake territory. This will make it harder for a snake's fangs to make contact with your skin. Remember: most snakes will only strike if they feel threatened. However, sometimes we don't hear or see their warnings.
- If you are bitten by a snake, wash the area with soap and water and call 911. It is difficult to identify some species of snakes or to determine if it is poisonous.
- If you see a snake, make every effort to avoid it.

For additional information on venomous critter identification, sting symptoms and wound first aid, check out our Bites, Stings and Venomous Things tip booklet:

http://www.swagcenter.org/files/pdf/bsvt_cards.pdf

Additional Resources

<http://www.wildlife-removal.com/snake.htm>

<http://www.webmd.com/first-aid/snakebite-treatment>

Monthly Blast written by Devynne Pazos.

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Produced by the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education. For more information, contact us at 903-877-5998 or by email to agcenter@uthct.edu.
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