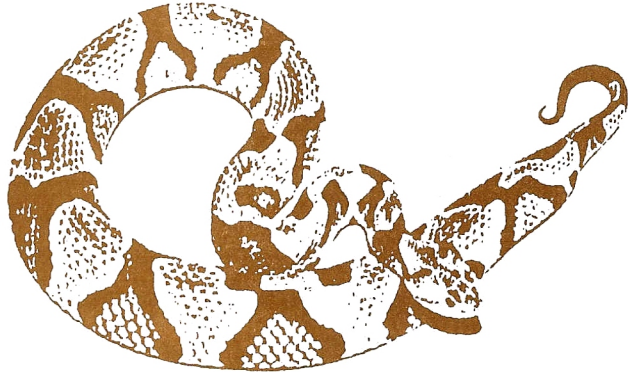


Northern Copperhead



Northern Copperhead: This snake is orange brown with dark brown to reddish narrow crossband markings along the back with broader bandings on the side. Head is triangular with a stout body.

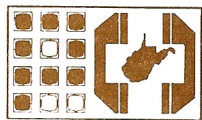
Their size is usually 2 to 3 feet in length. Environments most likely found in: wooded mountains, damp meadows and near abandoned buildings. May climb bushes and low trees in search of food. Usually not aggressive.



**Timber
Rattlesnake**

Timber Rattlesnake: This snake has two major color patterns. The first one is brown and black band markings that can appear on a background of yellow, brown or gray. Crossbands are somewhat "V" shaped. These markings break up about half way down the snakes back and become a row of dark spots. Some can be completely black. Rattles are not always present on the snake, they can be missing from injury. *Strikes may occur without a warning buzz!*

Their size ranges from 32 to 54 inches long. Environments most likely found in: wooded mountain areas, farmlands during harvest. They like to bask and hibernate in rocky bluffs and ledges. Will usually retreat if disturbed.



**WEST
VIRGINIA
POISON
CENTER**

1-800-222-1222

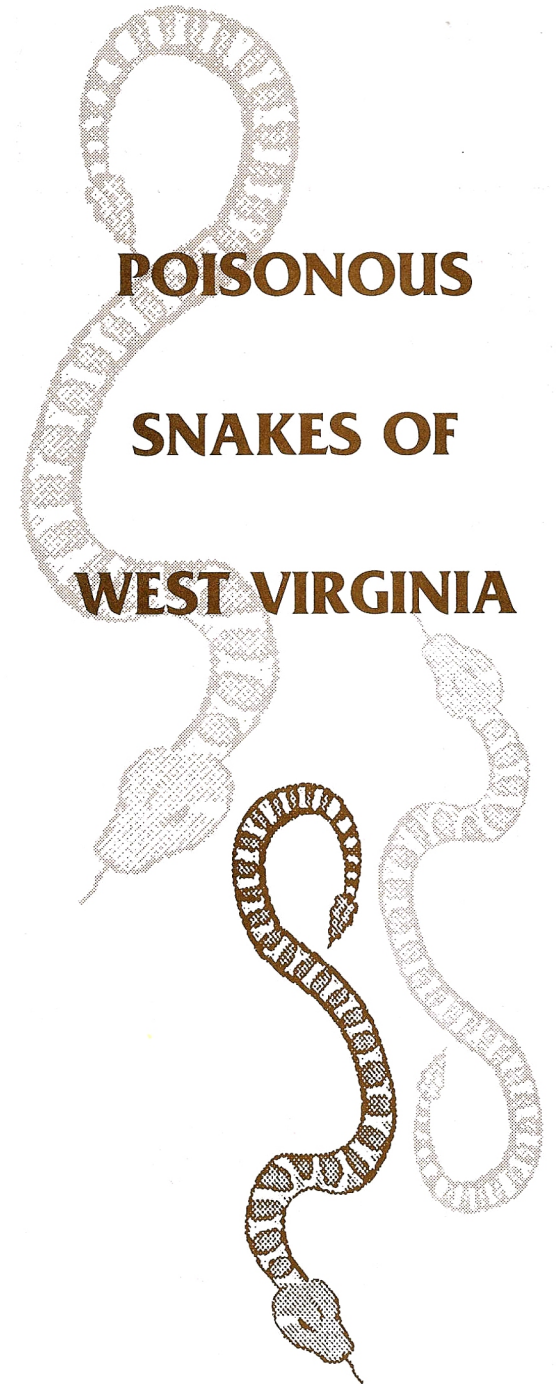
Visit our website...

<http://www.wvpoisoncenter.org>

POISONOUS

SNAKES OF

WEST VIRGINIA



There are two kinds of poisonous snakes in West Virginia. They are:

1. Rattlesnake (Timber)
2. Copperhead (Northern)

Approximately 25% of all venomous snake bites do not result in envenomation. This means that the snake may bite, but not inject any venom.

The severity of the poisoning depends upon:

1. The location, depth and number of bites.
2. The amount of venom injected.
3. The species and size of snake.
4. The age and size of victim.
5. Victim's sensitivity to the venom.
6. Bacteria present in the snakes mouth.
7. The type of First Aid and medical care received.



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PREVENTION:

People in snake infested areas should:

- Wear sturdy, high top shoes
- Wear heavy canvas leggings (more than 1/2 of all snake bites are on the lower parts of the legs.)
- Avoid walking at night or in grass and underbrush
- Do not climb rock ledges without visual inspection
- Do not kill snakes unnecessarily; many people are bitten in these attempts

EMERGENCY FIRST AID:

Improper first-aid attempts can actually make a snake bite worse. The following are appropriate first-aid measures:

DO

- Keep the victim calm
- Immobilize the bitten area
- Limit the use of a bitten area
- Wash the area with soap and water
- Transport the victim to the nearest medical facility

DO NOT:

- Apply ice
- Elevate a bitten arm or leg
- Apply a tourniquet
- Cut or suck the bitten area
- Give alcoholic beverages or stimulants

Attempt to identify the snake if this can be done with no risk of harm to yourself. NEVER handle a dead snake near its head - they can still bite!

A FINAL REMINDER:

Know the location and phone numbers of local hospitals, poison centers, and rescue squads in your area. When hiking and/or camping, find out the location and phone numbers of the nearest emergency facility.



1-800-222-1222