RATTLESNAKES

- Some species are relatively docile while others are quite aggressive when approached.
- Their bite is extremely strong; most serious bites occur when they secure a firm grip on the victim.
- Tail rattle is shaken vigorously to warn off intruders.
- Sit-and-wait predators during the day; remain coiled next to a regularly used animal path, and wait silently for prey.

COTTONMOUTHSnakes (Agkistrodon piscivorus) are typically found in swamps, marshes, or shores of ponds or lakes.

- Active at dawn, dusk, and on overcast days. Will climb small trees and shrubs in the daytime.
- Feed on a wide range of prey, some prefer small crustaceans, insects and other arthropods.
- Prey by constriction. Other species subsist entirely on warm-blooded mammals such as mice and kill their prey by suffocation, using their enlarged back teeth not very efficient at subduing prey or delivering toxin, most must chew for a prolonged period of time to kill the victim.

SNAKEBITE PREVENTION

- Avoid walking alone and keep to clear paths. Always use a flashlight at night.
- Remove wood and rock piles, construction debris, dumps, high grass and dense undergrowth.
- Avoid long grass and brush piles, rocks, or other debris. Swim only at approved beaches.
- Practice “SNAKE-SMART” behavior:
  - Recognize the appearance and progress of symptoms as soon as possible.
  - Have the victim lie down immediately; measure and color the bite.
  - Begin first aid treatment with pressure bandage at end of bite;
  - Antivenin (antivenom) is available for some snake venoms identified by the local medical care facility; consult with the local medical care facility to order antivenin if needed.

REPTILE VENOMS AND THEIR EFFECTS

- RATTLESNAKES, COBRAPEOPLE, AND COTTONMOUTHS:
  - Aggressive, will strike quickly if provoked.
  - May bleed when bitten, but will bleed only if hand or foot is on the wound.
  - Symptoms of a mite include local pain, swelling, numbness, tingling, weakness, difficulty in swallowing.

CORSAL SNakes and SEASnakes:

- Venomous and non-venomous are not a threat to humans.
- Swelling and bruising seen after the bite.
- Venom delivered by the mite, causing pain, numbness, tingling, and difficulty in swallowing.

CEREBRUM SNAKes:

- Venomous, can cause severe pain, numbness, tingling, and difficulty in swallowing.
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GILA MONTer:

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