



IF YOU ENCOUNTER A SNAKE:

Leave the snake alone and move away. Approximately half of all bites occur when individuals attempt to capture, harass, or kill a snake.

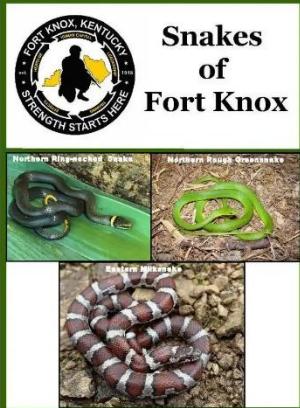
Snake Avoidance Tips:

- Be careful when working around brush piles or other debris. Use a rake or long-handled tool to move brush, debris, or other materials.
- Snakes prey on small animals including mice, rats, lizards, and frogs. Removing habitat for these animals (eliminating brush piles, wood piles, sources of food, etc.) will help reduce unwelcome encounters with snakes.
- Wear snake chaps or tall leather boots when walking in thick vegetation.
- Seek medical attention immediately if you are bitten by any venomous or unknown snake. Do not attempt to draw out the venom. If possible, collect the snake safely or take a photo with your phone to provide to medical staff.

Species profile videos about some of the snakes in this pamphlet and a venomous snake safety video can be viewed following this QR link.

Please like and follow our Fort Knox Fish and Wildlife Facebook page for more information.

All photographs used in this publication depict Kentucky snakes, of which were taken on Fort Knox. Photograph credit: Phil Pyle, John MacGregor, Brian E. Fair, and David Hart. We would like to thank the Department of Defense Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation for creating this pamphlet.



Twenty species of snakes have been documented on or near Fort Knox. The vast majority of these snake species, such as the Gray Rat Snake, Southern Black Racer, and the Northern Ring-necked Snake, are non-venomous and harmless. However, two species of venomous snake are also known to occur here (Eastern Copperhead and Timber Rattlesnake). Snakes play an important role in the ecosystems of Kentucky. Please do not kill snakes, particularly when they are encountered away from dwellings or work spaces.

Environmental Management Division
Directorate of Public Works
Natural Resources Branch

