

MASSASAUGA RATTLESNAKE

Be Aware

The Massasauga is cold blooded and therefore must obtain heat from the environment by basking in the sun. They hunt nocturnally and thus are on the move at night. They do not always rattle to warn you of their presence so one must be vigilant. During the day, always watch where you are stepping and at night, wear shoes and carry a flashlight!



What To Do If Bitten

Although everybody reacts differently to rattlesnake venom, there are specific actions that one should take to mitigate the reaction and length of treatment. In the event of a snakebite, seek medical attention immediately and follow the steps outlined below:

- √ Remain calm, reassure the person bitten and keep them quiet/immobile
- √ Call 911 to arrange transport to the hospital in Parry Sound and inform them of the rattlesnake bite
- √ Do not attempt to transport yourself to hospital as some people can react to a severe bite by losing consciousness
- √ Remove any rings or constricting items as there will be swelling
- √ Expose the area of the bite and wash and cleanse the wound
- √ Try to have someone identify the snake to confirm it was a rattlesnake
- √ DO NOT APPLY a tourniquet
- √ DO NOT APPLY ice or cut the bite area or apply suction
- √ Immobilize the limb or digit bitten with a splint to reduce movement
- √ Carry or assist the person bitten to a boat to transport them to mainland. This will help to reduce activity



Pointe au Baril Islanders' Association