ARIZONA **Poison and Drug** Information Center



Bites and Stings



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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA College of Pharmacy

Identifying Rattlesnakes



- Has a triangular head and a rattle on its tail
- Do not always rattle before they bite
- Are most active April through October
- All species of rattlesnakes can deliver a dangerous bite
- Antivenom is the only treatment
- Bites can cause pain, swelling, and bleeding problems

Identifying Gila Monsters



- lizard in United States
- Have black and coral skin pattern
- Grow up to two feet long
- Deliver a very firm bite requiring medical care

Preventing Bites and Stings

- Leave wild animals alone
- Creatures can be active in winter during the warmest part of the day
- Creatures can be active in summer during the coolest part of the day
- Keep hands and feet out of tight spaces
- Wear shoes when walking after dark
- Use lights at night

Snakebite First Aid

- Go to the hospital immediately
- Relax and move as little as possible
- Remove jewelry or shoes from bite area
- No ice, no tight bandages, no cutting on the bite area, no sucking out venom

Insect & Spider First Aid

- Clean the area with soap and water
- Place a cool compress over sting area
- Call the Poison Center if a small child is stung by a scorpion
- Call 911 if the person has difficulty breathing or swelling of the lips

Identifying Bark Scorpions



- Have the most dangerous sting and are the smallest species
- Hide in small cracks & dark places
- Sting can cause pain, numbness, and tingling
- Severe reactions can cause uncontrollable. body movements (arms and legs)

Identifying Spiders

Black Widow

Arizona Brown



- Round body with red or orange hourglass markings underneath
- Bite feels like a pin prick
- Bite may cause pain and cramping in the upper body, nausea, vomiting, and headaches



- Often confused with the Brown Recluse
- Tan to brown color
- Pain and flu-like symptoms after a bite
- Wound site can be slow to heal