

## Insects/Arachnids

### Brown Recluse:

Mainly active at night, these spiders like warm dry places like closets or outdoor sheds. The venom can cause decomposition of the flesh around the bite or even death.



### Black Widow:

These spiders favor outdoor undisturbed places like portable toilets or sheds. A bite from them can cause swelling, redness, pain in the abdomen and back, nausea, vomiting and difficulty breathing. Although rare, death can occur, so seek medical attention as soon as possible.



### How to Avoid:

- Be aware that spiders like to hide in dark, undisturbed places. Shake out your shoes before putting them on. Use caution when reaching into places where visibility is not good, especially if there are a lot of cobwebs.
- Signs of an allergic reaction are swelling, itchiness, red blotchy hives and difficulty breathing.

Content provided by Firefighter Gary Steele

### Red Fire Ants:

These ants deliver a painful sting that can itch and burn. The sting is usually not serious unless that person has a severe allergy to them.



### Bees and Wasps:



Bees can only sting once in self-defense. Some people are highly allergic to bee stings which can cause serious health problems.

Wasps are often confused with bees. Wasps are not "furry" like bees and can sting multiple times.

### Scorpions:

Scorpions can be found all over Texas. They are frequently under rocks, boards and other debris. Texas scorpions can be found in the house and feed on insects and other arachnids. Their sting is painful but often not serious, except for the occasional allergic reaction.



### Centipedes:

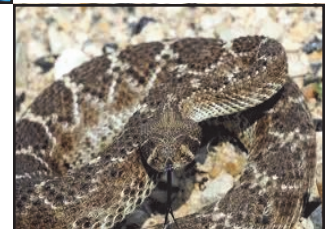
Centipedes like to be in moist and humid areas like basements. Their sting is non-lethal, but it can trigger an allergic reaction.

[www.facebook.com//Lake-Travis-Fire-Rescue Administration](https://www.facebook.com/Lake-Travis-Fire-Rescue-Administration): (512) 266-2533  
For Emergencies call 911

## Lake Travis Fire Rescue

Travis County Emergency Services District No. 6

## Summer Wildlife Safety & Awareness



[www.ltfr.org](http://www.ltfr.org)

## Summertime!

There are so many reasons to play outdoors in Travis County. Beautiful land, parks, lakes and creeks to name a few. As the temperature warms up we humans are not the only ones coming out to enjoy the weather. Most of our Texas critters are not dangerous and a joy to have around, but there are a few that do not play well with people. In this brochure we have listed some of the less friendly critters that should be avoided. If you or someone you know is hurt by one of these animals, don't hesitate to call 911.

## Venomous Snakes

### Western Diamondback Rattlesnake:

These snakes are most easily identified by their rattle which they may or may not shake when threatened. It will be a gray and brown snake with darker brown diamond shapes along its back. Juveniles can release more venom than adults, causing them to be more dangerous. Adults average 3 to 4 feet in length.



### Copperhead:

Although not as common in Travis County, these snakes can be found in rocky wooded areas. They are identified by copper and light-tan colored bands. The juveniles have a greenish yellow color on the tips of their tails, which will fade as they get older. They range in size from 2 to 3 feet long.



### Cottonmouth:

Also known as a "water moccasin," it can be found in or around still or slow moving water. Juvenile cottonmouths have a banding pattern of black and brown with a green tail tip. As they get older, they tend to get darker, losing their banding pattern and becoming more of a solid color. Cottonmouths float on water and range in length from 2 to 3 feet.



### Coral Snake:

These are brightly colored, thin snakes, that average 2 to 2 ½ feet. Its pattern is a broad black ring, a narrow yellow ring and a broad red ring, with the red rings always bordered by the yellow rings. This snake has similar color bands to many non-venomous snakes, but in Travis County, if it looks like a coral snake - it probably is! "Red on yellow, kill a fellow; red on black, friend of Jack."



### HOW TO AVOID:

- Keep the lawn around your home trimmed and clear any debris that might attract them.
- Prevent snake problems by removing their food sources like rodents. Don't leave pet food out and store animal feed in tight containers.
- Snakes like cool damp places to hide. Seal entry points into your crawl space or garage which are greater than ¼ inch in diameter.
- Watch where you step, sit down or place hands.
- When outside, be sure to wear shoes and take care when stepping over fallen logs and large rocks.