

Where do you find rattlesnakes in the park during rattlesnake season?

Rattlesnakes might be found almost anywhere throughout Foothills Park and the Enid W. Pearson Arastradero Preserve. There are several species of rattlesnake that are relatively common in this area; the most common is the Western Rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*).

They can be found throughout most of California from desert habitats to mountains and from the coast to well inland.

Rattlesnakes (like most reptiles) can not regulate their own body temperature. When it is chilly out you are most likely to see them sunning on a rock or in the middle of a path or road. When it is hot out they will usually be somewhere shady or hiding under a log or in a rock crevice.

Rattlesnakes tend to be a fairly shy animal so you will be lucky to see one. If you do get to see a rattlesnake be careful, they are poisonous.

Some things to remember:

- A rattlesnake does not need to rattle to bite.
- A small rattlesnake may inject more venom per bite than a larger, older snake.
- When in the wilderness (woods) do not put your hands in places you can not see.
- If you do get bitten remain calm and have someone call 911 as soon as possible, advanced medical care is the best way to survive a venomous snakebite.
- If you see a rattlesnake on the trail give it the right of way, allow it to move off the path. Remember, this is their home we are just visiting.
- **DO NOT PLAY WITH RATTLESNAKES.** If you are close enough to poke a snake with a stick you are close enough get bitten.