


---

**Facilities Management**  
**Snake Relocation Standard Operating Procedures**

---

SOP #:	EHS-029	Revision: 0
Dept:	Environmental Health and Safety	Date: 08/16/19
Approval:		Date: 08/16/19

## 1. PURPOSE

About 7,000 people are bitten by venomous snakes in the United States each year with only five or six fatalities annually. Venomous snake bites are medical emergencies. While this is rare, venomous animals still pose a risk to our campus community. There are only three venomous snakes in the state of Colorado. All three are rattlesnakes and the only rattlesnake native to Pueblo, Colorado is the Prairie Rattlesnake.

All snakes are an important part of the Southeastern Colorado Ecosystem. Through predation, snakes limit many other populations such as mice, moles, rats, squirrels, rabbits, and even some birds. Through competition over resources, non-venomous snakes also control rattlesnake populations. The purpose of these standard operating procedures is to provide guidance on the relocation of snakes found on core campus for the safety of both the snake and campus stakeholders. CSU-Pueblo is actively concerned with the safety of all faculty, staff, students and guests on the CSU-Pueblo campus. Safety can only be effectively achieved with the cooperation of the entire campus community.

## 2. RESPONSIBILITIES

2.A. Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) will be responsible for:

2.A.1. Developing and updating of the Snake Relocation Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

## 3. DEFINITIONS

3.A. Venomous Snake – A member of the suborder Serpentes that is capable of producing venom, which it uses for killing prey, defense, and to assist with digestion of its prey.

## **4. PROCEDURES**

4.A. Call 911 if someone has been bitten by any snake. If possible, call ahead to the emergency room so that antivenin can be ready.

4.B. Only trained personnel such as the Sheriff's Office, Environmental Health and Safety, and the Facilities Management Grounds crew.

4.C. Any snake found in the following scenarios will be relocated.

4.A.1. Inside any campus building.

4.B.2. Anywhere on core campus.

4.B.3. In proximity to athletic fields during athletic events, practices, and games.

4.D. All snakes will be safely transported in a bag to an area where they can safely be released. The preferred location is east of Troy Ave, east of the Thunderbowl Stadium.

4.C. In Colorado, rattlesnakes may be legally killed only if they pose a threat. All other snakes are classified as nongame wildlife and are protected by law.