

Spiders

There are almost 900 species of spiders in Texas. Only two groups of spiders in the State are considered poisonous to humans: brown recluse *Loxosceles reclusa* and black widow *Latrodectus mactans*.



Brown Recluse
(*Loxosceles reclusa*)

The spider's venom causes death and decay of the tissue surrounding the site of the bite.



Black Widow
(*Latrodectus mactans*)

Only the female is dangerous to humans. There may be slight local swelling and two faint red spots surrounded by local redness at the bite. Pain may become intense within one to three hours and may continue up to 48 hours. Pain usually localizes in the abdomen and back.

Black widow spider has been reported at the base. They prefer dark, dry places and can be found in eaves, boxes, rodent holes, basements, barns, inside unused blankets and shoes, and patio, carport, and deck crevices.

A physician should treat bites from either of these two spiders as soon as possible.

Trail Safety



Laughlin Nature Trail

Protect yourself:

- Wear sunscreen, hats, insect repellent and appropriate clothing and hiking shoes.
- Stay hydrated.
- Check forecasts and prepare for changes in the weather.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return.

Protect your pet:

- Carry water for your pet.
- Keep pets on a leash and clean up after them.
- Know your pet's limits.



Call 291-8550

for critters around base housing.

Call 298-4357 (HELP)

for critters around your workplace.



Wildlife Safety Tips to Prevent Dangerous Encounters



Scorpions
Centruroides vittatus



Centipedes
Scutigera coleoptrata



Spiders
Loxosceles reclusa

Spring time in Texas brings warmer temperatures and new opportunities for outdoor activities, but also new risks. From unpredictable weather conditions to wildlife encounters and outdoor hazards.

It is important to stay prepared and vigilant. This guide provides essential safety tips to help you enjoy the beauty of the season while avoiding potential dangers.

Venomous Snakes

Texas is home to over 105 different species and subspecies of snakes, 15 are potentially dangerous to humans.

- Rattlesnakes
- Cottonmouths
- Copperheads
- Coral Snakes



Rattlesnakes

The western diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*) is a rattlesnake species and member of the viper family, found in the southwestern United States and Mexico. Diamondback is the most prevalent venomous snake in Laughlin AFB.

The probability of encountering a cottonmouth, a copperhead or a coral snake in LAFB is very low.



Cottonmouths (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*)

Cottonmouths can be dark brown, olive-brown, olive green or almost solid black. They are marked with wide dark bands. This snake earns its name from the stark white interior of its mouth, which it noticeably displays as a defensive mechanism.



Copperheads (*Agkistrodon contortrix*)

Copperheads have chestnut or reddish-brown crossbands on a lighter colored body.



Coral Snake (*Micrurus fulvius tener*)

The coral snake is slender with a small indistinctive head and round pupils, and is usually 2-1/2 feet or shorter. Its distinctive 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. Remember "red touch black, safe for Jack, red touches yellow, kills a fellow"

Safety:

- Be careful where you put your hands and feet.
- When moving a log, use a long stick or garden tool first to ensure snakes are neither under, or around it.
- Allow the snake to retreat. If you must move, back slowly and carefully away from the snake.
- Wear snake chaps or tall leather boots when walking in thick vegetation.
- Seek medical attention immediately if you are bitten by any venomous or unknown snake.

Insects

Spring in South Texas brings blooming flowers and an increase in insect activity.



**Red Fire Ants
(*Solenopsis
Wagneri*)**



**American
bumble bee
(*Bombus
pennsylvanicus*)**



**Southern
yellowjacket
(*Vespula
squamosa*)**

How to treat yourself if you get stung by a bee or a wasp:

- Assess your body's reaction. Don't pull the stinger out because it will release more venom. Some people have severe reactions including swelling, breathing difficulties, severe drop in blood pressure and shock. If you experience a severe reaction see a doctor immediately or call 911.
- Cleanse the site. Wasp do not leave a stinger behind, most bees do (except bumblebees).
- Apply ice to the area to reduce swelling.