

Moderate whitetail season expected for hunters

With drought affecting most of the state over the summer, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists foresee a moderate season for hunters this fall. “Overall, the 2022 year is expected to be good in terms of harvest numbers and opportunities, so don’t let the chance to spend time afield with family, friends and fellow hunters pass you by,” White-Tailed Deer Program Leader for TPWD Alan Cain said. “Texas has one of the longest deer seasons in the nation, so take some time this fall and winter and enjoy one of the best deer herds in the country right here in your home state.”



Deer hunting kicks off with archery season on October 1 across most of the state. Cain

noted that while harvest numbers may look good, drought impacts on deer habitats

mean hunters should generally expect average to below average antler quality and body weight this fall.

Drought conditions

Temperatures in the early summer months frequently soared above 100 degrees across most of the state, and lack of significant rainfall limited the spring production of important food sources like forbs (weeds) and woody shrubs for deer.

“Woody plants are critical in times like these because these deep-rooted plants are often the only abundant supply of green groceries for deer, but even these browse plants are showing some signs

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Rattled...

Care after a snake bite

BREYANA SEGURA

Living in South Texas, even the most experienced hunters and ranchers cannot prepare for every situation, especially snakebites.

Snakes do not prey on humans and they normally do not give chase; the danger



A Dilley woman was struck by a copperhead snake in mid-June. See related story on page 12.

comes when the venomous reptiles are surprised or concerned with changes in their environment.

Wildlife biologists say the majority of bites result from people taking unnecessary or foolish risks with venomous snakes.

If you happen to come near a snake, you stand completely still and allow the snake to retreat; if you must move, back up slowly and carefully.

Do not play with a dead snake because they can still bite and inject venom due to muscle contractions.

Animal burrows and tall grass are common habitats for snakes; use caution when crossing creek banks and underbrush.

Should you get bitten by a rattlesnake, emergency personnel recommend the following tips to minimize

RATTLESNAKE VS. COPPERHEAD BITES	
RATTLESNAKE: Require anti-venom Cause tissue damage that affects circulatory system Destroys skin tissue and blood cells Numbness in face and limbs Blurred vision Difficulty breathing Sweating Swelling Discoloration at bite site	COPPERHEAD: Strike without warning signs Have hemotoxic venom Bite is rarely fatal to humans Usually not given anti-venom Extremely painful Swelling Potential tissue damage Requires immediate medical attention Discoloration at bite site

your risk:

- Don’t raise the area above the level of your heart, the blood containing the venom will reach your heart quicker.
- Stay still, movement will increase your blood flow causing the venom to circulate faster.
- Remove tight

clothing and jewelry.

- Let the wound bleed.
- Don’t wash the wound, doctors may be able to use exposed venom from your skin to identify the correct anti-venom quicker.
- Try to remain calm, anxiety and panic can increase your

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