



# ATTENTION

## Federally-Threatened Eastern Indigo Snakes may be present on this site!

*Killing, harming, or harassing eastern indigo snakes is strictly prohibited and punishable under State and Federal Law.*

### If you see a LIVE eastern indigo snake on the site:

- Do NOT attempt to touch or handle the snake. Stop land disturbing activities and allow the snake time to move away from the site without interference.
- Take photographs of the snake, if possible, for identification and documentation purposes.
- Immediately notify supervisor/applicant, and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Ecological Services Field Office, with the location information and condition of the snake.
- If the snake is located near clearing or construction activities that will cause harm to the snake, the activities must pause until a representative of the USFWS returns the call (within one day) with further guidance.

### If you see a DEAD eastern indigo snake on the site:

- Stop land disturbing activities and immediately notify supervisor/applicant, and a USFWS Ecological Services Field Office, with the location information and condition of the snake.
- Take photographs of the snake, if possible, for identification and documentation purposes.
- Thoroughly soak the dead snake in water and then freeze the specimen. The appropriate wildlife agency will retrieve the dead snake.

**DESCRIPTION.** The eastern indigo snake is one of the largest non-venomous snakes in North America, reaching up to 8 ft long. Named for the glossy, blue-black scales above and slate blue below, they often have orange to reddish color (cream color in some cases) in the throat area. They are not typically aggressive and will try to crawl away when disturbed.

**SIMILAR SPECIES.** The black racer resembles the eastern indigo snake. However, black racers have a white or cream chin, thinner bodies, and WILL BITE if handled.

**LIFE HISTORY.** Eastern indigo snakes live in a variety of terrestrial habitat types. Although they prefer uplands, they also use wetlands and agricultural areas. They will shelter inside gopher tortoise burrows, other animal burrows, stumps, roots, and debris piles. Females may lay from 4 to 12 white eggs as early as April through June, with young hatching in late July through October.

**PROTECTED STATUS.** The eastern indigo snake is protected by the USFWS, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Any attempt to kill, harm, harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, trap, capture, collect, or engage eastern indigo snakes is prohibited by the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Penalties include a maximum fine of \$25,000 for civil violations and up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for criminal offenses. Only authorized individuals with a permit (i.e., Recovery [10a1A] or HCP ITP [10a1B]), or an Incidental Take Statement associated with a USFWS Biological Opinion may handle an eastern indigo snake.

Please contact your nearest USFWS Ecological Services Field Office if a live or dead eastern indigo snake is encountered:

Jacksonville, FL, (904) 731-3336  
Panama City, FL, (850) 769-0552  
Vero Beach, FL, (772) 562-3909  
Athens, GA, (706) 613-9493

