

If you see a LIVE eastern indigo snake or any black snake on the site:

- Please 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 or the applicant's designated agent, and the nearest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Ecological Services Field Office, with location information and condition of the snake.
- If the snake is located near land disturbance or construction activities that will cause harm to the snake, pause these activities 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 the supervisor or designated agent, and the nearest USFWS Ecological Services Field Office, with 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.

Contact your nearest USFWS Ecological Services Field Office if you encounter a live or dead eastern indigo snake:

Florida Office (352) 448-9151
Georgia Office (706) 613-9493

Description. The eastern indigo snake is one of the largest non-venomous snakes in North America, reaching up to 8 ft long. They derive their name from the glossy, blue-black color of their scales above and uniformly slate blue below. They often have orange to reddish colors in the throat area; some have cream colors on the throat. They are not typically aggressive and will attempt to crawl away when disturbed.

Similar Species. The black racer is a solid black snake resembling the eastern indigo snake. However, black racers have a white or cream chin and thinner bodies.

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 often seek 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.

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

Protected Status. The eastern indigo snake is classified as a Threatened species 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 individuals authorized to handle an eastern indigo snake through an issued Incidental Take Statement in association with a USFWS Biological Opinion, or by a Section 10 permit issued by the USFWS, are allowed to do so.



ATTENTION:

**THREATENED EASTERN
INDIGO SNAKES MAY BE
PRESENT ON THIS SITE!**



*Please read the following
information provided by the U.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service on
standard protection measures for
the eastern indigo snake.*

